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CALGARY metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Danger pay for Canadian troops under review

Tories look over a plan to reduce the stipend for troops serving in Afghanistan PAGE 13

Fate of Hose and Hound Pub up in the air

Future of Inglewood fixture uncertain as city negotiates a sale of the property PAGE 3

CHECK, MATE!

SPORTING SOME PREPPY TAILORING DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE AN '80S BANKER OR A MEMBER OF A COUNTRY CLUB. METRO ROUNDS UP THE BEST OF THE SPRING SELECTION IN STORES NOW PAGE 27

Mount Royal University students lead chants at Premier Alison Redford's office Wednesday after marching with faculty to protest cuts to post-secondary education. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Student offers delayed as MRU deals with cuts

On the block? University diploma and certificate programs under review for closure: MRU official

Even as students buckle down for their final week of winter classes at Mount Royal University, numerous diploma and certificate programs at the school have yet to make a single offer to new entrants for the fall.

Officials at the university conceded the process is delayed, adding it's solely because of a 7.3 per cent cut to provincial operating grant funding.

Others at the school, including faculty association head Gerry Cross, claim it's those very programs that are being reviewed for potential suspension or termination.

"I don't think they will all be cut," he said. "But this is damaging to these programs ... many of the students that have applied may look elsewhere."

An internal April 8 admissions report obtained by Metro shows diploma programs for broadcasting, music performance and theatre arts have not made any offers to prospective students. In the broadcasting program's case, for example, 124 students have applied and typically 50 of them would be granted admission.

Certificate programs in business administration, environmental science, journalism and advanced athletic therapy also have not issued any invitations to attend.

By comparison, flagship programs believed to be safe from the axe — bachelor degrees in science, the arts and communications — have issued hundreds of offers.

On Wednesday, more than 300 students and faculty members marched a few blocks to Premier Alison Redford's office to protest the cuts.

A university statement regarding program offers reads, "If the programs in question do eventually get cut, the university is making arrangements for alternate options for these students, which will likely entail having them admit to a degree program track."

Student president Kaylene McTavish believes time is of the essence and cutting non-degree programs could have a "detrimental effect."

"A student is not an 18-year-old anymore," she said. "Students are coming back to do certificates for a reason. They need higher education even as a mature student."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Project still short cash.

Edmonton councillors put $45M into arena

Edmonton city councillors voted to put $45 million into that city's downtown arena project, but still need another $55 million in provincial cash to make the project a reality.

In an eight-to-five vote, councillors agreed to commit unexpected increases in provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative grants to the project, using $3 million per year for the next 20 years to pay off the $45 million, which will be taken on as new debt.

The city will now pressure Premier Alison Redford's government for the missing money, council having made its commitment contingent on the province's share.

Coun. Ben Henderson, a supporter of the deal, said he could not support this move because it went against promises he made to constituents.

"I can't imagine now being able to go back to them, given some of the things that I have said," said Henderson.

Mayor Stephen Mandel said spending the infrastructure grants downtown made sense, because it meant investing in the city's often-neglected downtown.

"It would be tough to find $100 million spent downtown, so I think it's a bit selfish of everybody," he said.

Mandel said the city plans to spend billions to bring the LRT to the suburbs, that it has already spent funds developing roads and infrastructure, and that this is an investment in the downtown.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON

Calgary has moved to sell the old fire hall that houses the Hose and Hound Pub, while still preserving the building's historic character, and using the proceeds to maintain other historic buildings in the city's inventory. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Fire-hall sale puts Hose and Hound Pub at risk

Uncertain future.

Owner, 20 employees of unique pub anxiously awaiting word on sale of city building

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The fate of Inglewood's Hose and Hound Neighbourhood Pub remains up in the air as the city negotiates a sale of the historic fire station that houses the popular bar with an unnamed, prospective buyer.

"They're negotiating with somebody, but I don't know who it is," pub owner Chuck Rose said Wednesday. "They're not negotiating with me at this point."

Rose had hoped the city would offer him first right of refusal on the building, where he currently pays rent, but said he understands why council opted to put it on the open market and seek top dollar.

"They probably made the right choice," he said. "Looking at it as a taxpayer — if it wasn't my business and I wasn't personally involved — I would say they probably got an extra half-million dollars out of it."

Council made the decision behind closed doors late Tuesday night and won't reveal the prospective buyer until the deal is finalized.

Ald. Gian-Carlo Carra, whose ward includes Inglewood, voted against the deal.

"I just want to make sure we're not doing anything to drive it out of business in the name of a couple extra bucks," he said.

Still, Carra admitted there is a "good argument" in favour of maximizing the property's value, since proceeds of the sale will be used to maintain other heritage buildings in the city.

But he worries about the intangible value of losing the pub, which he described as one "of the anchor businesses that put Inglewood into the current position that it is now, as one of the coolest neighbourhoods in the city."

Plea to top bidder

- While he doesn't know who the prospective buyer is, pub owner Chuck Rose said, "I have heard from a couple of sources that the top bidder is interested in having us as a tenant."
- "If that's the case, please give me a call, whoever you are," Rose said. "Because I'd sure love to put my staff's minds at ease."

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Airline with 'throwback' service eyes Western market

Porter. Carrier has signed a conditional agreement to buy up to 30 Bombardier jets for $2.3 billion

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Calgary and Edmonton are on the list of new destinations for Porter Airlines, which announced the purchase of 30 new jets on Wednesday along with major expansion plans.

The Toronto-based regional carrier currently provides shorter flights, mostly in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States.

But Porter has designs on major new markets in North America, including Alberta's two largest cities, which company spokesman Brad Cicero said are "high priorities" for the airline.

Porter's marketing tagline is "flying refined." It offers relatively luxurious lounges at existing terminals and onboard offerings such as extra leg room and free alcoholic drinks.

"You don't have to pull out your wallet to ask for a beer on board," Cicero said. "It's a bit of a throwback to what flying used to be — that's really the experience we want our customers to come away with."

That came as welcome news to Calgary resident and frequent flyer Vincent Lee, who said the extra space was particularly appealing.

"There's nothing worse than paying an expensive fare and having somebody's elbow jammed up in your ribs," Lee said.

As for prices, Cicero said airfares have typically dropped in markets Porter has expanded into in the past.

Henry Woudstra, general manager of Butte Travel in Edmonton, agreed that a new airline in Alberta would result in reduced airfares, but didn't think it would last for long.

"For a time — until they go broke," he said. "This is not the time to expand as they propose. It would be devastating for them, for WestJet, for Air Canada."

Woudstra said he was surprised by Porter's announcement, given the current climate of the airline industry.

"We are shaking our heads when we read that," he said. "The chances of success in that are remote.... I just cannot see it succeed."

Porter Airlines plans to expand its reach with the addition of Bombardier CS100 aircraft like this one. CONTRIBUTED

Paddling groups oppose safety boom on Bow River

Kayakers Peter Grenier, near, and Kyle Graham in Harvie Passage. METRO FILE

Calgary's fire department is putting better signage in place along the Bow River and hopes to reinstall a safety boom before the May long weekend — the traditional starting point of the summer rafting season.

But returning a boom to the Bow will require approval from Transport Canada — the fire department sent an application regarding the matter last week — and is being met with pushback from some paddling groups that fear it will impede access to the $17-million Harvie Passage and pose a safety hazard.

Enforcement concerns

- Questions have been raised about enforcement on city rivers this summer as Calgary police currently do not have an operational boat and are reviewing their practices going forward.
- The fire department and city bylaw services are in the process of appealing for similar powers as police on waterways, but have yet to receive word from Transport Canada.

The fire department did, however, perform about 70 rescues in the passage last year, and local resident Brad Kuhl died after his raft overturned in the area over the Canada Day long weekend.

"Harvie Passage is not for recreational users," said Deputy Fire Chief Ken Uzeloc. "It's for experienced paddlers with the right equipment to go through."

But Karla Handy with Paddle Alberta points out Harvie Passage only opened last year and said more should be done to educate the general public before putting a boom back in.

She added that while the fire department maintains its boom design would not allow boaters to become stuck, the quick current on the Bow may have other ideas.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Spencer West, centre, poses for a photo with friends David Johnson and Alex Meers at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in June 2012. CONTRIBUTED

Legless man on a Walk 4Water

Charity event.
Activist to travel 300 km between Edmonton and Calgary to raise funds

KATIE TURNER
katie.turner@metronews.ca

After scaling Mount Kilimanjaro, travelling more than 300 kilometres between Edmonton and Calgary might seem like a simple stroll for Spencer West.

Next month, West, who lost his legs at five years old, will be using his hands and his wheelchair on an 11-day trip to draw attention and raise money for Free the Children's We Walk 4Water.

West made headlines last year when he successfully scaled Kilimanjaro with his two best friends.

"We were so humbled and grateful for all the support from Canada and really all over the world," the Toronto resident said.

"But afterwards there was so much more that we could be doing; that was the tip of the iceberg."

He said he hopes people will join him on the walk, hold their own events in classrooms across the province or donate $25, which he said can provide clean water for one person for life.

"This way, people can get involved now and it's not just me climbing a mountain with my two best friends; it's the entire community coming together to raise awareness about water," he said.

West, along with best friends David Johnson and Alex Meers, will be in Alberta from May 6 to 16.

Goal

"We're trying to bring clean water to 100,000 people for life."
Spencer West

Lethal training accident

Soldier got off too easy: Prosecutors

Prosecutors are seeking a harsher sentence for a Canadian Forces reservist convicted in a deadly Afghanistan training accident.

Darryl Watts was found guilty in December on two charges, demoted two ranks and given a severe reprimand. Watts filed an appeal last month.

But the director of military prosecutions has filed a cross-appeal. The prosecution had requested jail time as well as dismissal with disgrace. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Right Here. Promo video shows off Calgary's best

Local agencies have released a new promotional video highlighting all things Calgary to attract visitors.

Tourism Calgary, Calgary Economic Development, the Calgary Telus Convention Centre and the Calgary Hotel Association partnered to create the Right Here video, which features nearly 300 citizens.

"As Calgarians, we know our city is young, creative, innovative, cultural and urban, and it's important the rest of the world sees this too," said Mayor Naheed Nenshi in a statement. METRO

A still from the Right Here promo video. SCREENGRAB/YOUTUBE

Winter blues? 'Ride it out'

Make. It. Stop.
Calgarians have been waiting patiently for signs of spring to no avail, but weather specialist makes no promises

DEREK QUAN
calgary@metronews.ca

It's a couple weeks into April and Calgarians have only seen a few days of spring.

While there are legions of Calgarians looking to usher in warmer temperatures, Calgary has been experiencing a mix of snow and cold lately.

"The weather here is unpredictable to say the least," said Calgarian Tomas Blanchard. "I can't wait for the warm weather to roll in."

Others have had enough of the winter doldrums.

"I'm hoping we see more sunshine soon," said Austin Milton. "The cold weather is rather depressing."

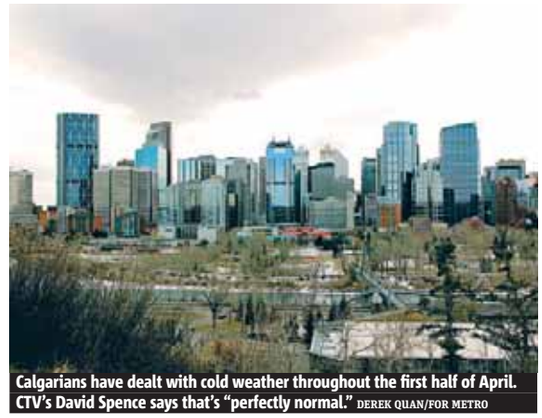
CTV Calgary weather specialist David Spence said it's no surprise that Calgary hasn't been seeing much of the warm weather.

"It's perfectly normal to have this kind of weather at this time of year," Spence said. "Spring and fall are the snowiest seasons, more so than winter in Calgary."

Despite Calgarians' wanting to embrace the warm weather, Spence said its arrival is almost impossible to predict: Any forecast beyond seven days is too uncertain.

Spence also recommended Calgarians just "ride it out" through the cold weather, pointing out that it isn't severe weather by any means.

"It's just nuisance weather," he said.



Calgarians have dealt with cold weather throughout the first half of April. CTV's David Spence says that's "perfectly normal." DEREK QUAN/FOR METRO

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Stings on youth slammed

Experts are criticizing police for using so-called Mr. Big undercover stings to target teens, including in a case currently before a youth court judge in Edmonton.

The controversial undercover operations, which typically involve officers posing as crime bosses to recruit suspects and elicit confessions, are mostly used in adult cases. But they have also been used against a handful of young-offender suspects across the country.

A youth trial that began in Edmonton this week heard that Mounties used a Mr. Big sting on a 17-year-old male charged with murdering two people on a rural property while on the lam from a group home. The boy was 14 at the time of the killings and the trial has heard he was 16 when he was targeted by the sting.

"A young teenager?" says Toronto lawyer James Lockyer with the Association in Defence of the Wrongfully Convicted. "That is frightening."

Lockyer says police probably didn't consider the age of their target.

The Edmonton trial has yet to hear specific details about what police did in this sting. In the typical ruse, once a suspect is enticed into a criminal organization, the fake crime boss offers various amounts of money or other incentives to help make their legal problems go away. All they have to do is provide details of their past crimes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buildings

City, BOMA create safety guide

City officials and building industry officials will be releasing a guide to help increase public safety.

The Building Envelope Guide, to be launched Thursday, will include recommended practices for safety in and around existing buildings, including sidewalk safety, signage and safety plans. METRO

Bedroom. Couple wakes to break-and-enter suspect

Investigators are on the hunt for a suspect who allegedly broke into a northwest Calgary home and woke the slumbering residents.

The couple woke up shortly before 12:30 a.m. Wednesday to find a strange man in the bedroom of their home on the 1300 block of 15 Street N.W.

They chased him out of the house before calling police. Officers say the suspect broke a window and entered the home, but it's unclear if anything was taken.

The suspect is described as Caucasian, about 25, five-foot-eight to five-foot-10 with a slim build and light-coloured buzzed hair. He was wearing a white T-shirt at the time.

Anyone who may have information is asked to call police at 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. METRO

Lower drug payouts.
Alberta spends $40M for pharmacies to adjust

The Alberta government says it will pay out $40 million this year to help pharmacists adjust to the new world of lower payouts for generic drugs.

Health Minister Fred Horne says the money will help cover the costs for generic drugs that pharmacists have already bought at the older, higher prices.

There will be more money to keep rural pharmacies open and there will be funds set aside to train more pharmacists to perform more billable tasks.

The Alberta Pharmacists Association has been warning of dire consequences with the price reduction. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Generic drugs

As of May 1, the province is cutting in half what it pays for generic drugs. The payout will drop from 35 per cent to 18 per cent for a generic drug compared with the cost of an equivalent brand name medication.

'High-risk'

Officer acted lawfully in fatal shooting: ASIRT

The RCMP officer who fatally shot a man on a rural property near Vegreville last July will not be charged, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team said on Wednesday. An ASIRT investigation has concluded the officer who shot the man acted lawfully in the "high-risk" situation. In July 2012, members of the Vegreville and Two Hills RCMP detachments responded to a 911 call for a dispute between a man and his family members at a rural property. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rescue group seeking tales from animal lovers

Pound Rescue is asking pet owners to share their rescue stories, which will be compiled into a book and sold as a fundraiser. POUND RESCUE FACEBOOK PHOTO

Fundraiser. Book will be on sale before Christmas to raise money for Pound Rescue

KATIE TURNER
katie.turner@metronews.ca

Inspiring true tales of animal adoption are being sought by an Okotoks-based rescue group in hopes of inspiring others and raising funds.

Founder of Pound Rescue Gabrielle Barrie said she wanted to move away from a traditional fundraising campaign such as selling calendars and create something more permanent, such as a book.

"We want people to call or write in with their own rescue stories … whether it's a dog, a cat, from a shelter, from a rescue group, or from the streets," said Barrie.

The stories will be compiled into a book, which will be sold in several pet stores in the Calgary area.

Barrie said in addition to raising money for their emergency fund, she wants to help rid the stigma that rescue animals make troubled pets.

"These are just normal animals that people don't want anymore because their life changes or their interests change," she said. "It has nothing to do with the animals, it basically has to do with the people."

Animal owners can submit their one-page stories with an accompanying photo, or Pound Rescue will provide a photographer, before the May 1 deadline. For further details on story submissions, or any of the animals Pound Rescue is looking to find permanent homes for, visit poundrescue.com.

Since 1996

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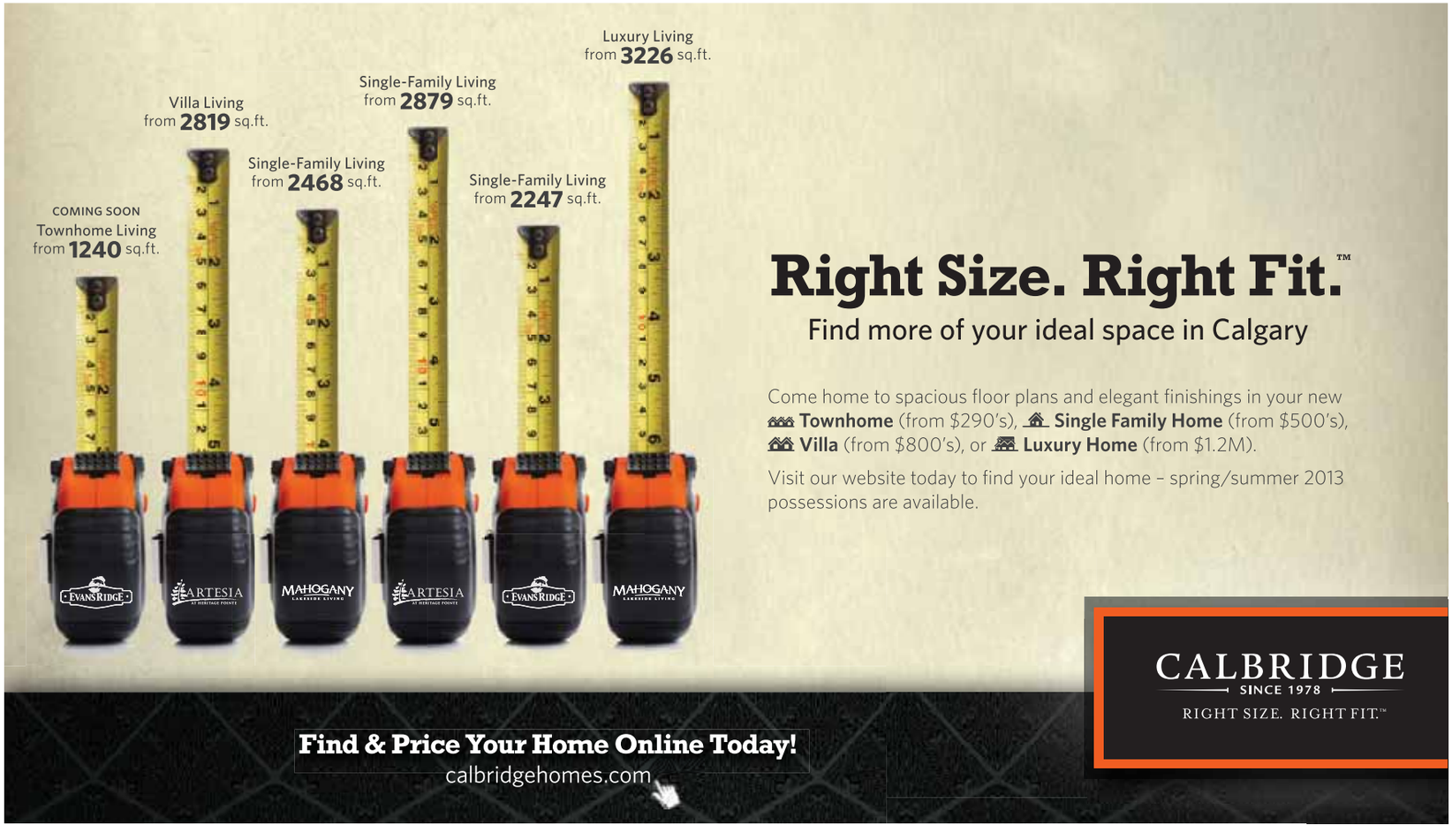
Pound Rescue has been around for 17 years.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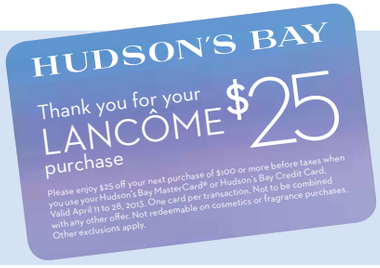
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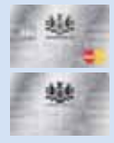

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Syria

U.S. may send rebels more aid

The Obama administration is expected to give Syrian rebels broader nonlethal assistance, including body armour and night-vision goggles, while stopping short of providing weapons to help fight Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Obama has resisted pressure to arm the rebels; the leader of the strongest rebel group pledged allegiance to al-Qaida on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan

Afghan soldier fires on allies

An Afghan soldier fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an armoured vehicle carrying Lithuanian troops, injuring two of them, Lithuania's defence ministry says.

Officials said the Afghan fired on the vehicle after asking it to stop. He was apprehended and remains in custody. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sexsomnia

Man acquitted of sleep sex assault

A Danish man has been acquitted of molesting two 17-year-old girls after he was found to suffer from a rare sleep disorder.

A court found Wednesday that the man fondled the girls in 2011 while asleep — the result of "sexsomnia," a recognized condition in which a person engages in sexual activity while unconscious.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Kingdom

WWII bomb dug up in flower bed

Gardeners in Britain who were digging flower beds for a horticultural competition instead uncovered a Second World War bomb.

Police say a bomb unit was sent to a crossing near Nafferton train station. The area near the railway tracks was cordoned off to prevent vibrations from trains setting the device off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada boycotts UN justice meeting

War crimes.
Ambassadors protest Bosnian victim being thrown out of meeting

Canada, the United States and Jordan boycotted a meeting on international criminal justice organized by the Serbian president of the General Assembly on Wednesday, offended that it didn't include Bosnia's war victims, and attacked the UN war-crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The ambassadors from Jordan and Liechtenstein protested by hosting a press conference for two victim groups — the Mothers of Srebrenica and the Association of Witnesses and Survivors of Genocide — while assembly president Vuk Jeremic, the former foreign minister of Serbia, presided over the assembly meeting.

Munira Subasic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica, who lost 22 close family members in the 1995 massacre by Bosnian Serbs, said she was allowed into the assembly meeting as "a silent observer." She listened as Serbia's ultranationalist President Tomislav Nikolic criticized the Yugoslav tribunal.

She believed that Nikolic was denying the genocide in Srebrenica, so she said she put on a T-shirt, which said: "Justice Is Slow But It's Reachable."

"All of a sudden I was surrounded by security of Vuk Jeremic" and escorted out of the room, Subasic said.

In a speech soon after, Nikolic protested against the "lynch-mobbing of Serbia" and accused the Yugoslav tribunal of "selective justice" by seeking to punish Serbs while overlooking the crimes of Bosnians and Croats. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman in July 2011 at the grave of one of many newly identified victims of the 1995 massacre in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Normal Triglyceride Levels ☐	Elevated Triglycerides ☐	Allergies ☐
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New York City

Weiner weighing run for mayor

Former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, who resigned over a sexting scandal in 2011, says he's weighing a run for New York City mayor this year.

The Democrat said his political committee spent more than $100,000 on polling and research.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anthony Weiner
GETTY IMAGES FILE

U.S. Supreme Court

'Heart is broken,' says top court's 2nd black justice

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas says he is heartbroken over the poverty and social troubles among many black communities.

Thomas is the second black justice on the top U.S. court. He spoke Tuesday at Duquesne Law School. He said his "heart is broken."

He said he's seen terrible decline in some black communities, and "virtually every crime is drug-related." Thomas said many young people have no families and no education, and numerous anti-poverty programs have failed.

Thomas said the U.S. should "at least fess up and say something is wrong."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alberta Premier Alison Redford speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alberta premier dismisses $40 'magic number'

Carbon tax. Redford's government agrees current $15 levy may need to be raised

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is pouring cold water on reports her government already has a dollar amount in mind for an increase to its carbon levy on industry.

Redford is in Washington talking up Alberta's environmental policies to support the approval of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline.

The premier has repeatedly stressed Alberta's existing $15-per-tonne carbon tax on large emitters that don't meet a 12 per cent intensity reduction target. Recent leaked reports suggest Alberta could move to a 40 per cent intensity reduction target with penalties of $40 per tonne.

But Redford warned that no one should presume that will be the final target. "I know there have been reports that that's somehow a magic number," she said Wednesday. "In our minds it's not."

Alberta consistently points to its carbon levy as unique in North America, but critics question its effectiveness.

Groups such as the Pembina Institute suggest the levy actually works out to less than a couple of dollars per tonne averaged over an industrial facility's entire carbon output. Companies can also buy carbon offsets, some of which cost as little as $8 a tonne. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Climate change. Canada giving $10M to coalition

The federal government is putting another $10 million into a global coalition to reduce short-lived climate pollutants — substances such as soot, methane and hydrofluorocarbons that emit greenhouse gases.

Environment Minister Peter Kent said Canada would also be putting $2.5 million towards a centre launched by the United Nations to help developing countries find the best technology to confront the challenges of climate change. THE CANADIAN PRESS

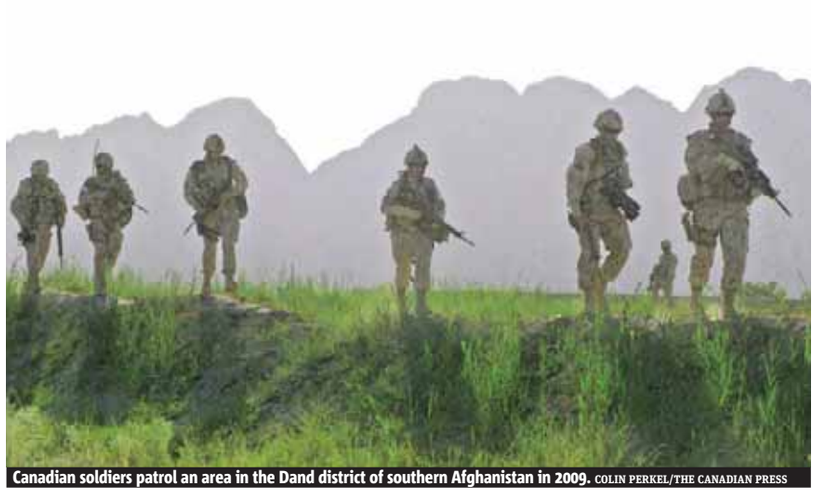
Quoted

"As an Arctic nation, Canada understands the importance of addressing short-lived climate pollutants, which have an impact on the rate of Arctic ice melt."

Environment Minister Peter Kent, at the Canadian embassy in the U.S. capital.

Plan to cut danger pay for troops under review

Afghanistan. Canadian soldiers facing 30% cut because bureaucrats feel Kabul is safer than the volatile south


Canadian soldiers patrol an area in the Dand district of southern Afghanistan in 2009. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A plan by bureaucrats to reduce danger pay for Canadian troops serving in Afghanistan is now under review by the Harper government.

"This decision was not appropriate, and we are asking for this decision to be reviewed," said Veterans Affairs Minister Steven Blaney.

The stipend was reportedly facing a cut of more than 30 per cent, which would have meant nearly $500 a month less for roughly 920 soldiers based in Kabul, who are training Afghan forces.

The rationale for the initial decision, which was made by a joint committee of bureaucrats from National Defence and Treasury Board, was that Kabul is safer than Afghanistan's volatile south, where Canadian soldiers are no longer serving.

In an exercise in damage control, officials from the prime minister's office, called Wednesday for the committee, which meets only four times a year, to convene again "as soon as possible" to reverse the decision. It's unclear when the committee will meet.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legal. Muslim inmates in high-security prison fight for right to pray together

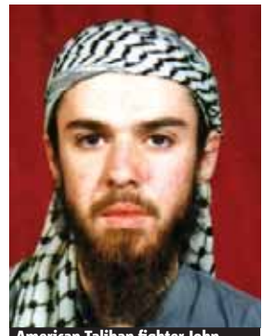
Lawyers for American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh asked a U.S. judge Wednesday to find the Federal Bureau of Prisons in contempt for not allowing Muslim inmates in a high-security prison to pray together five times a day, as required by their faith.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed the contempt motion in U.S. District Court.

The U.S.-born Lindh first drew attention when he was detained in Afghanistan weeks after the 9-11 attacks in 2001.

The prisons agency has said inmates of all religions housed in the Terre Haute federal prison's Communications Management Unit have been allowed to pray together three times daily after a federal judge ruled in Lindh's favour in a lawsuit seeking the prayer time.

The ACLU of Indiana argues that isn't what the judge's Jan. 11 ruling required.


American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh wants to pray with Muslim inmates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The judge said Lindh, 32, sincerely believes Islam mandates Muslims pray together five times a day and federal law requires the prison to accommodate his beliefs.

The ACLU said prayer times set by the prison make only two daily prayers possible or make prayers impossible during proper times.

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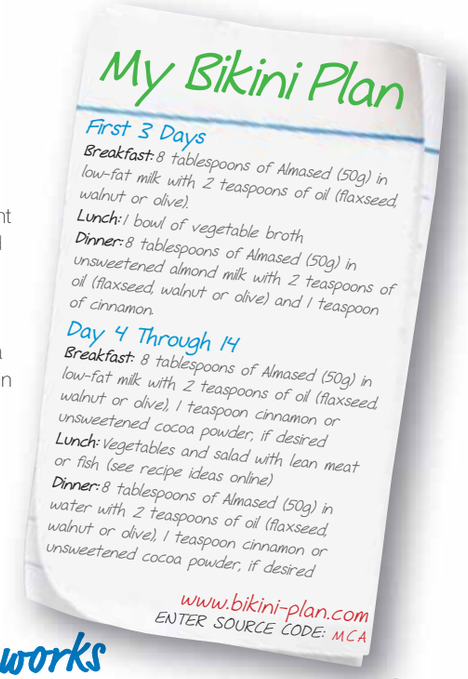
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Is Canada failing its children?

Nation ranks 17th out of 29 wealthy countries when it comes to the well-being of our children, according to a new study from UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Photos: Torstar News Service/Getty Images/The Canadian Press File

Ranking 'isn't good enough': UNICEF Canada

UNICEF graded the 29 countries in five categories and Canada's best ranking was 11th in the area of housing and environment. David Morley, UNICEF Canada's president and CEO, says the report shows there's a lot of work to be done.

"The fact that our children rank in the bottom half when compared to other industrialized nations simply isn't good enough," Morley said.

Youth smoking pot, not smokes

Canada scored third-best on smoking, with UNICEF saying only four per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 reported smoking at least once a week.

The same can't be said for cannabis, with Canada sitting 29th and last with 28 per cent of children saying they have used cannabis within the past year.

Bullying still a major concern

Canada ranked 21st in bullying, with 35 per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 reporting being bullied at school at least once in the past couple of months.

More than 1 in 5 have bloated BMI

When it comes to obesity, Canada is third from the bottom, with 20.24 per cent of children aged 11, 13 and 15 deemed overweight based on the body mass index.

A substandard well-being

Canada ranked 14th in educational well-being, 15th in material well-being, 16th in behaviour and risks and a low 27th in health and safety. "It is clear Canada can do better," Morley said. "Protecting and promoting the well-being of our children must become a national priority."

Dutch top list as Canada plummets

The Netherlands remains the overall leader in the study and is the only country ranked among the top five in all dimensions of child well-being.

Meanwhile, Canada's overall ranking drops seven places to 24th when children's views of their own life satisfaction are measured. Only five eastern European countries rank lower than Canada in this category.

Docs often not told of side-effects by drug reps: Study

Public-health concern. Minimum standard for drug safety info met in less than 2% of company sales calls

Most family doctors say they receive little or no information about harmful effects of medications when visited by drug-company sales representatives promoting their products, a survey of Canadian, U.S. and French physicians has found.

Even so, many doctors said they were likely to start prescribing or increase prescriptions of promoted drugs following sales-rep visits, consistent with previous research that shows prescribing behaviour is influenced by pharmaceutical companies' promotion.

"Harm from medication use is a serious public-health concern," said Barbara Mintzes, principal researcher of the survey study. "So the information quality, and doctors getting complete information on medicines, is important."

Harmful consequences

"We are very concerned that doctors and patients are left in the dark."

Barbara Mintzes

For the study, published Wednesday in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, the researchers asked 255 family doctors in Montreal, Vancouver, Sacramento and Toulouse, France, to fill out a questionnaire each time they were visited by a drug-company rep.

In all, the physicians provided information on almost 1,700 drug promotions between May 2009 and June 2010.

Pharmaceutical sales reps regularly visit doctors' offices to promote their products, providing information, often free samples and, in some cases, food and invitations to events. Since 2005, France has prohibited free drug samples and gifts to doctors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A new study suggests doctors aren't always told of a drug's harmful effects by the promoters selling them. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Putin mistakenly banned from Finland

Finished with the Finnish? Interior minister offers the Russian president her 'sincerest apologies'

Vladimir Putin, banned in Finland?

Finnish police say the Russian president's name was mistakenly placed on a secret criminal register that could theoretically have gotten him arrested at the border.

It was reported Wednesday that Putin was placed there due to his contact with the Russian motorcycle gang Night Wolves, though he wasn't suspected of a crime in Finland.

But National Police Board spokesman Robin Lardot said the listing was a mistake and that Putin's name was removed from the list.

"The National Police Board has investigated the case and indeed found that such a mistaken entry was in the register," Lardot said.

"We have ordered it to be removed and are investigating the case very thoroughly. We don't know how it got there."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"This kind of incident is extremely exceptional and is not acceptable under any circumstances."

Mikko Paatero, head of Finland's national police force

Vladimir Putin plays with his dogs Yume and Buffy in the Moscow region on March 24. ALEXEI DRUZHININ/RIA NOVOSTI/PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unusual target

Circus elephant survives drive-by shooting injury

Authorities say a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant was hit by a bullet in a drive-by shooting in Tupelo, Miss.

Circus spokeswoman Melinda Hartline says the elephant, named Carol, was not seriously hurt, and no other animals were harmed.

Police Chief Tony Carleton says a vehicle drove past the arena about 2 a.m. and fired into the area. Police are investigating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'One of the worst things I've seen.' Puppy tied to train tracks in California

Officials say a 78-year-old man tied a puppy to train tracks in the California desert, and an engineer had to use emergency brakes to keep from crushing it.

Riverside County animal control said Tuesday that Banjo, a 10-month-old poodle-terrier mix, is fine and up for adoption.

Union Pacific Special Agent Sal Pina responded and called the scene "one of the worst things I've seen."

Pina untied Banjo and detained the man, who said his family didn't want the dog and didn't know what to do.

Pina says he couldn't pursue charges against the man because he appeared confused and didn't understand what he'd done. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image, provided by Riverside County Animal Services, shows Banjo, a 10-month-old poodle-terrier mix that was rescued after being tied to train tracks in the California desert. RIVERSIDE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Family's ignorance of sex predators helped Sandusky: Paterno's widow

Naivete? February report commissioned by family portrays former Penn State coach as victim of 'rush to injustice'

This November 2011 file photo shows former Penn State coach Joe Paterno and his wife Sue on the front porch of their house. Sue Paterno says she and her husband were ignorant about sexual predators like Jerry Sandusky.

JOE HERMITT/THE PATRIOT-NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Joe Paterno's widow said Wednesday that she and her husband were ignorant about sexual predators like Jerry Sandusky and did not realize that the former Penn State assistant football coach was abusing the boys he met through a children's charity that he founded.

"We have been unaware of how a predator behaves," Sue Paterno said at a program celebrating Child Abuse Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. "In many cases, we unknowingly helped him 'groom' his victims while we thought we were helping a child achieve self-esteem and find a better life."

Mrs. Paterno said she was horrified when she learned the truth about Sandusky after his arrest in November 2011. Her husband, who led the Penn State's Nittany Lions for 46 years, died in January 2012 at age 85.

"The last 17 months have been filled with disbelief, horror, the pain of loss, sleepless nights, praying for the victims and for peace of mind for those who unwittingly were too naive to recognize the signs of abuse," she said.

Jay Paterno, one of the couple's five children, also spoke at the breakfast gathering sponsored by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance. The group's executive director acknowledged that some members questioned the choice of the Paternos as speakers, but she defended the decision and described the family as "good folks."

Former FBI director Louis Freeh, who led an internal probe, has said he stands by his report that concluded that Paterno and the university's former president Graham Spanier, former athletic director Tim Curley and retired vice-president for business and finance Gary Schultz concealed critical information and "failed to protect against a sexual predator harming children for over a decade."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where things stand

The Freeh report accused Joe Paterno and three former Penn State administrators of covering up an abuse allegation about Jerry Sandusky a decade ago to shield the university from bad publicity. Paterno was fired days after Sandusky was charged.

- Sandusky, 69, is serving a 30- to 60-year sentence after being convicted of 45 counts of child sexual abuse involving 10 boys over a period of years.
- The Second Mile, the charity where prosecutors say Sandusky met most of his victims, is still functioning but received a judge's permission to sell its headquarters for $650,000.

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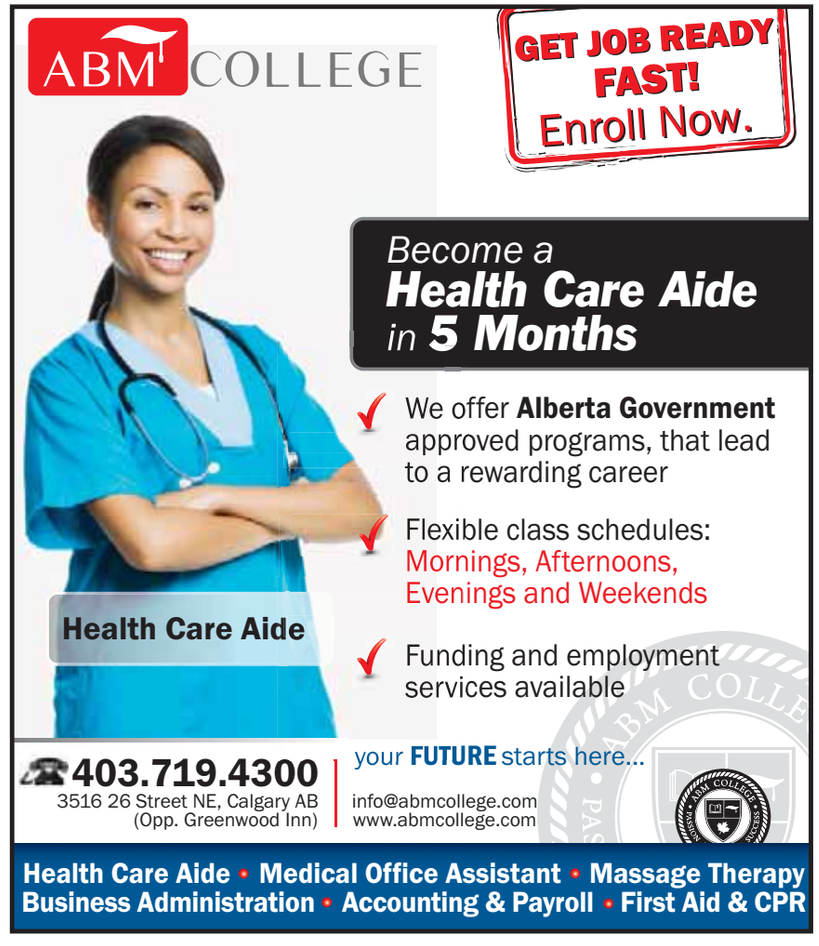
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Pilfering in Paris

Pickpocket protest closes Louvre

The Louvre was closed Wednesday as workers walked off their jobs to protest the rising problem of pickpockets in the museum's galleries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horsemeat scandal

Dutch recall mystery meat

Dutch authorities are recalling 50,000 tons of meat sold as beef across Europe as its source cannot be established and it may contain horsemeat.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banking secrecy

Luxembourg helps fight tax evasion

Luxembourg will exchange information with the rest of Europe to help fight tax evasion, in a bid to make the country's massive financial sector more transparent.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. Retailers ration baby milk powder to cope with surge in Chinese demand

Demand for baby milk formula is surging in Britain, but it seems likely the powder is going to babies thousands of miles away.

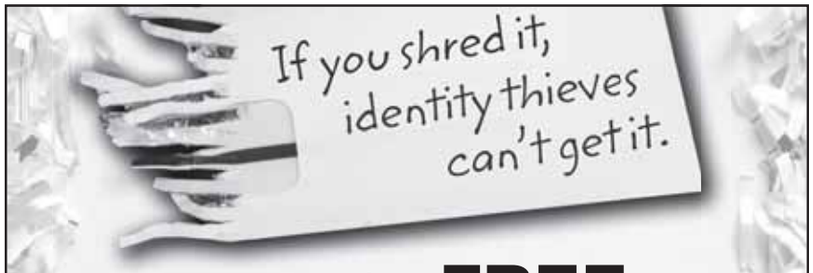
British retailers said Wednesday they are limiting purchases of baby milk powder to two tins per customer after noticing some people were buying unusually large quantities in stores, apparently to export to China for profit.

Danone, the dairy manufacturer, said it has significantly increased production of powdered baby milk in response to the bulk-buying trend.

"We understand that the increased demand is a result of unofficial exports to China to satisfy the needs of Chinese parents who want international brands for their babies," Danone, which makes Aptamil and Cow & Gate baby formulas, said in a statement.

Baby formula made by foreign brands is in great demand in China, where parents have been wary of local dairy products since a contaminated milk scandal left six babies dead in 2008. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sign limiting the purchase of milk-formula powder hangs on a shelf in a supermarket in London on Wednesday. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Naheed K Nenshi mayor of the City of Calgary has issued an official "Letter of Recognition" acknowledging the 75th anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society.
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Carriers split from wireless lobby group

Not on same page. Wind Mobile, Public Mobile, Mobilicity say industry association was taking positions that favoured big firms

Three of Canada's new wireless carriers say they will better serve their customers outside the industry's lobby group, which they accuse of favouring Rogers, Bell and Telus.

Wind Mobile, Public Mobile and Mobilicity say three-year contracts, roaming rates and tower sharing were among irritants that made them leave the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association.

The three small carriers accused the association of taking positions on these issues that favoured Canada's big three carriers. "Instead of spinning our wheels internally, we will be able to focus the time and energy on helping Canadian consumers," Mobilicity's director of legal affairs, Gary Wong, said Wednesday.

In this March 7 photo, Industry Minister Christian Paradis is shown announcing measures to increase wireless competition. On Wednesday, three of Canada's new wireless carriers showed what they thought of the state of competition by breaking ties with a lobby group they say favoured the big three carriers. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Quoted

"There's no negative impact on consumers here whatsoever. We feel like we are going to do a better job in lobbying ... as a result of us exiting the association."

Bob Boron, senior vice-president and chief legal and regulatory officer at Public Mobile

Public Mobile, Wind Mobile and Mobilicity don't ask their customers to sign contracts for mobile phones and have brought more competition to the market since they launched about three years ago.

The three small companies are expected to have just over six per cent of the market at the end of this year, up from just under five per cent at the end of 2012, the Convergence Consulting Group has estimated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sticky situation

BMO lauded for being nice to mice

BMO is getting a Compassionate Company Award and a big box of vegan chocolates shaped like mice from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. After learning from PETA about the cruelty of using sticky glue traps to kill mice, BMO banned the devices from its approximately 900 locations nationwide. METRO

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.58¢ (+0.18¢)

TSX 12,534.91 (+50.85)

OIL $94.64 US (+ 44¢)

GOLD $1,558.80 US (-$27.90)

Natural gas: $4.10 US (+8¢)
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NEWS NOT FIT FOR PRINT

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I have a lot of esteemed titles — freelance writer, ex-husband, that guy in Metro — but none bring me more respect than editor-in-chief of Canada's most dignified newspaper, The Beaver Examiner.

Perhaps you've heard of it. With mission statements to "keep fake news real" and "treat every week like shark week," The BeEx has been bringing insightful Canadian news to reader(s) since 2005, updated any time — day or night — once every several months.

As you'll see below, The Beaver Examiner is unencumbered by fact-checking, spelchecking or any of the other quaint traditions that hold back so many newspapers (seven worldwide as of press time). Enjoy and be enlightened!

The Beaver Examiner News Briefs: Proudly Independent From Facts

- Rescuers Say 751,171 People Stranded In New Brunswick NEAR THE N.B. BORDER – Emergency crews are being urgently dispatched to the province of New Brunswick today, after it was discovered that 751,171 people have been stranded there for the entire winter.

Rescuers said they are having a difficult time accessing the area, due to a lack of affordable airfare and fear of becoming stranded themselves.

"We're hoping for the best, but we hear there may be 69,000 people in Moncton alone," said rescue co-ordinator Kerry Chandler, choking back tears.

Chandler said it was the most shocking disaster he and his staff can recall since rescuers stumbled upon several million people crammed into squalid conditions in downtown Toronto.

- Unusually Skilled Witness to Shooting Knew Immediately Gunshots Were Gunshots VANCOUVER – Burnaby resident Tom Mayer, a skilled witness to tragedy and unusually adept innocent passerby, knew immediately that a gunshot he heard while leaving a bar in the Vancouver downtown was a gunshot.

"I heard a 'pop, pop' sound and I thought 'gunshots!' right away," the wise-beyond-his-peers Mayer said. "Definitely not a firecracker, firework, or car backfiring." Mayer said the tragedy that injured four didn't seem at all like an action movie, "because that's kind of stupid."

Mayer said he picked up his witnessing acumen years ago when he saw a Cessna crash that he knew instantly had nothing to do with terrorism.

- Prone Man Criticizes Goaltender's Positioning WINNIPEG – Rick McHutchion, a Manitoba man who had been lying on his back on his couch for almost three hours, expressed disgust at the positioning of Winnipeg Jets goaltender Ondřej Pavelec during Tuesday's game against the Buffalo Sabres.

"He looks terrible out there," said McHutchion, as he fished awkwardly for the final chip in a bag resting on his ample stomach. "He should be embarrassed."

McHutchion added that the Winnipeg defence is lazy, and that he'd change the channel in disgust if the remote wasn't so far away.

And that's a look at the award-wanting news coverage The Beaver Examiner brings every single day that I feel like it.

Check in next week when we'll examine a new survey that shows that nine out of 10 government scientists, when asked about being "muzzled" by the federal government, said "Mphm! Mphm!"

ZOOM

Why take the stairs when ...

SOLENT NEWS AND PHOTO AGENCY

... sliding into the office is a breeze

British IT company Peer 1 Hosting has unleashed the most enjoyable office ever. Their design makeover came complete with cinema, pub, pool table, golf course, tree house and giant helter-skelter slide. METRO

Other fun offices

- **Google:** Zurich. It's fitting that the tech giants put effort into their office. There is a rule to be never more than 100 metres from food, while an aquarium and library provide relaxation.
- **Comvert:** Milan. The clothing company has an indoor skating rink suspended above their desks to blow off steam.
- **DTAC:** Bangkok. Mobile-phone providers have a whole building and a floor for activities, featuring indoor soccer, table tennis, running track and concert hall.
- **Selgas Cano:** Madrid. This architecture firm has designed their building to blend into the Spanish forest.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Most of us amateurs have strengthened our Instagram chops considerably since those heady early days of documenting pets, parks and undeserving food. But we still have a long way to go before catching up to these iPhone-slinging pros.

AikBeng Chia:
With iPhone in pocket, AikBeng Chia wanders the streets of Singapore to provide a series of all-hours glimpses of the city's people, art and architecture. @aikbengchia

Robert Paul Jansen:
A Dutch photographer who whiles away his spare hours by shooting the beautiful, frequently fog-shrouded Netherlands landscape. @robertpauljansen

Benedicte Guillon:
A Paris street photographer with an uncanny eye for capturing one of the world's most photogenic cities. Vacation vicariously in your pocket. @iphoneographic

Twitter

@metropicks asked: @Oprah is in trouble for backing skin cream derived from baby foreskins. What's your not-so-sketchy beauty secret?

@MisterInsight: I don't use any product, natural beauty is as fine as it comes

@jpadamson: Coconut oil as a hair conditioner and as a moisturizer. Smells great! Moisturizing! And you smell delicious!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Letters

RE: Daredevil Raccoon Performs High-Wire Stunt, published April 9

I can have positivity with regards to raccoons. I'm positive they are a health hazard. I'm positive they are a pest. I'm positive there needs to be a raccoon control program.
Myworkisdonehere posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
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Advertising Feature

Suit that makes you look like a million dollar man

Owning a hand crafted, custom fitted suit is the dream of every man and woman. But finding a tailor and staying within budget can often be a challenge. So, you continue to buy ill-fitting suits off the rack – suits that are not customized to the nuances of your body type and size.

An end to an ill fitted off the rack suit

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BMV Bespoke is passionate about creating the best possible fitted suits for their clients – before a thread is cut or a measurement is taken, your BMV tailor will carefully observe and note every detail of your unique body type to ensure your suit fits to perfection.

"As tailors, we love to see somebody coming to us wearing an off-the-rack, ill-fitting suit, which often costs a fortune and then walk out with one of our perfectly fitted, custom made suits. With BMV, our superior quality and fit often costs so much less, yet fits so much better." ~ BMV's Director and Lead-cutter.

When buying off the rack, the only options are what is in front of a person- the shoulders may be too wide or too narrow or the fit may just not be comfortable.

Men who buy off the rack almost always need to have their suits altered, but by visiting a BMV bespoke, they can have a suit made exactly to their specifications and body type.

"We cut from scratch and make full suit according to individual preference," explains William Bal of BMV Bespoke Tailors.

They visit major cities several times a year, taking custom orders, including tailor-made shirts starting at just $59 upto $250 & suit starting at $329 goes upto $3500 depending on different qualities.

BMV's expert tailors, visits major cities across Canada 7 - 8 times a year. To be custom fitted and select a fabric from the thousands offered by BMV, call the number for your city on the dates provided. Ask for Mr. William Bal or BMV Bespoke.

Once an order is placed, the craftsmanship begins almost immediately, thanks to today's digital technology. You will receive your suit within 4 to 6 weeks after your custom fitting, or you can request express delivery, where your suit will be delivered within 10 business days. You also have the option of having BMV bring your suit during their next visit to your city.

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Ottawa ON K1R 5T9
Tel.: 613-237-3600

Victoria Delta Ocean Pointe & Spa Hotel
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Edmonton Delta Centre Suite Hotel
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Tel.: 780-429-3900

Saskatoon Delta Bessborough
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601 Spadina Crescent E Saskatoon,
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You can only reach us on above hotel numbers during our stay or can call us on +1 778 385 3592 between 11th - 29th Apr. Please ask for BMV Bespoke or Mr. William Bal at the hotel reception.

Vinyl's very big comeback

Tactile treasure. Young music fans looking for more than just a download are behind the resurgence in record sales

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

While vinyl lost a lot of its popularity, and very nearly went away, longtime record collector Mark Corner has seen its popularity soaring again in recent years.

"About four years ago I noticed a lot of younger kids getting into older bands and classic rock like Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix and Pink Floyd," says Corner, organizer of this weekend's Calgary Music Collectors Show. "Having something to hold in their hand, like a record, while listening to music became more interesting to them. More so than downloading."

Corner held the city's first record fair five years ago. The turnout has been so good during the past few years, he's turning it into a biannual event, with a second fair slated for Sept. 29.

"It's really taken off," he says. "And it's not just vinyl. People are more interested in rock 'n' roll memorabilia now as well."

Corner reckons part of the reason for vinyl's increased popularity with younger music fans is their relative unfamiliarity with the format.

"Most kids don't know what a 45 is," he explains.

"It's something new to them. Also, a lot of the groups from the '60s and '70s are so different from the groups of today. It draws their interest, although they're not necessarily reliving what their parents were into."

It's been 45 years since Corner bought his first album (The Good, the Bad and the Ugly soundtrack at a local grocery store) and he now has more than 1,000 full-length albums and seven-inch singles.

He says he's amazed at how the record industry has embraced vinyl again after all but abandoning the format in the 1990s.

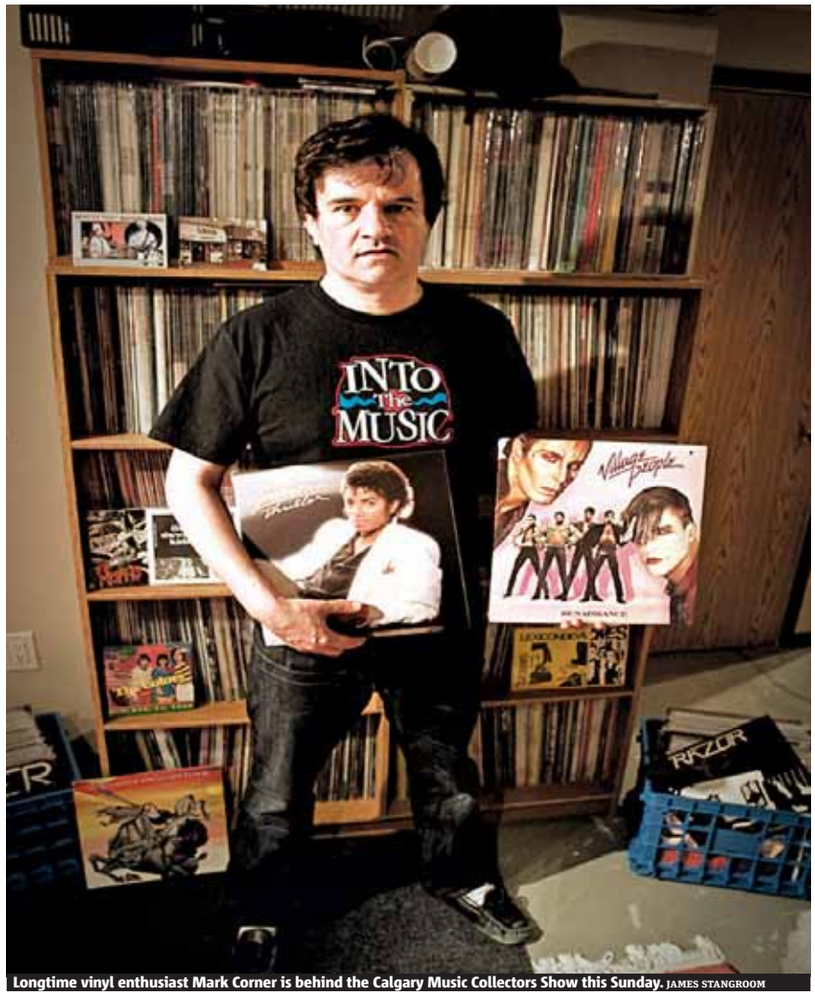
"Not a lot of vinyl came out in the '90s, so stuff like Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Oasis and Blur vinyl is worth something. It's the same way people are looking for original pressings of The Kinks and The Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin. It's mind-boggling how much people will pay for those early pressings."

The Calgary Music Collectors Show comes a week before International Record Store Day on April 20, which sees hundreds of bands and artists releasing special editions or Record Store Day-only singles.

"It draws new music collectors to record shops they may have never experienced before," he says.

If you go...

- **The Calgary Music Collectors Show.** Takes place Sunday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Acadia Recreation Complex, 240 – 90 Ave. S.E. Fee is $5 or $10 for collector's entry at 10 a.m.



Longtime vinyl enthusiast Mark Corner is behind the Calgary Music Collectors Show this Sunday. JAMES STANGROOM

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News worth sharing.

Notice of Hearing for Custody and Temporary Guardianship Order To

Lumario Rattlesnake

Take notice that on the **19th day of April 2013 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Custody and Temporary Guardianship Order** of your child born on **March 27, 2013**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Diane Charlebois; Jackie Ellice; Daniella Eggink
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority
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Tom Cruise admits to being caught off guard by divorce

Tom Cruise is finally opening up about his divorce from Katie Holmes, which caught most of Hollywood off guard. And it turns out it caught Cruise off guard as well.

"I didn't expect it," he says in an interview with German TV station ProSieben.

"To be 50 and to have experiences and to think you have a grip on everything, and then it hits you — this is it, what life can do to you. Life is a tragicomedy. You need to have a sense of humour."

Tom Cruise.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Katy Perry.

Perry ridding herself of Brand

Katy Perry is quickly unloading any remnants from her marriage to Russell Brand, including the Hollywood Hills home he bought in 2011 and then relinquished to her following their divorce, according to Us Weekly.

Perry is listing the seven-bedroom, 11-bath home for $6.925 million. It sits on a three-acre compound near the Chateau Marmont.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Gosling has kind words to say about Britney Spears

Growing up as co-stars on the Mickey Mouse Club made for some interesting run-ins between Ryan Gosling and Britney Spears — at least to hear Gosling tell it.

"Britney was a sweetheart," Gosling tells the U.K.'s Sunday Times magazine.

"She lived right above me, the girl next door. The little girl I used to play basketball and spin the bottle with."

Old pals

"She lived right above me, the girl next door. The little girl I used to play basketball and spin the bottle with."

Ryan Gosling
Talking about Britney Spears.

Their other Club-members included Justin Timberlake, Christina Aguilera and Keri Russell.

"I mean, sometimes you are at the same event, but it's a lot like I imagine what it's like to run into someone from elementary school," he says of how the old gang relates to each other now.

Twitter

@joelmchale
Last week my 5yr old walked out on our hotel balcony & repeatedly screamed GIVE ME MONEY. I thought "Wow, someday he will be a great leader"

@pattonoswalt
Sure, Diddy is dating @KateUpton. But did he win @esquiremag's Twitter War? Did he? DID HE?!? (Hugs crown, bursts into tears)

@SteveMartinToGo
When I was twelve, I wanted to launch a missile, too.

Lindsay Lohan.

Lohan pal looked to Liza to get the troubled star back on track

Lindsay Lohan was nearly given quite the talking to by Liza Minnelli late last year when the legendary singer was reportedly approached by a Lohan pal to stage an intervention, according to Radar Online.

Lohan's friend, Claus Hjelmbak, was the one who is said to have reached out to Minnelli.

"He was so concerned for her well-being because of her continued use of prescription pills and booze," a source says. "He reached out to Liza Minnelli's camp, in the hope that she could help. Liza has battled her own demons with alcohol and has been very supportive publicly of Lindsay. Claus thought that if anyone could get through to Lindsay, Liza could be that person."

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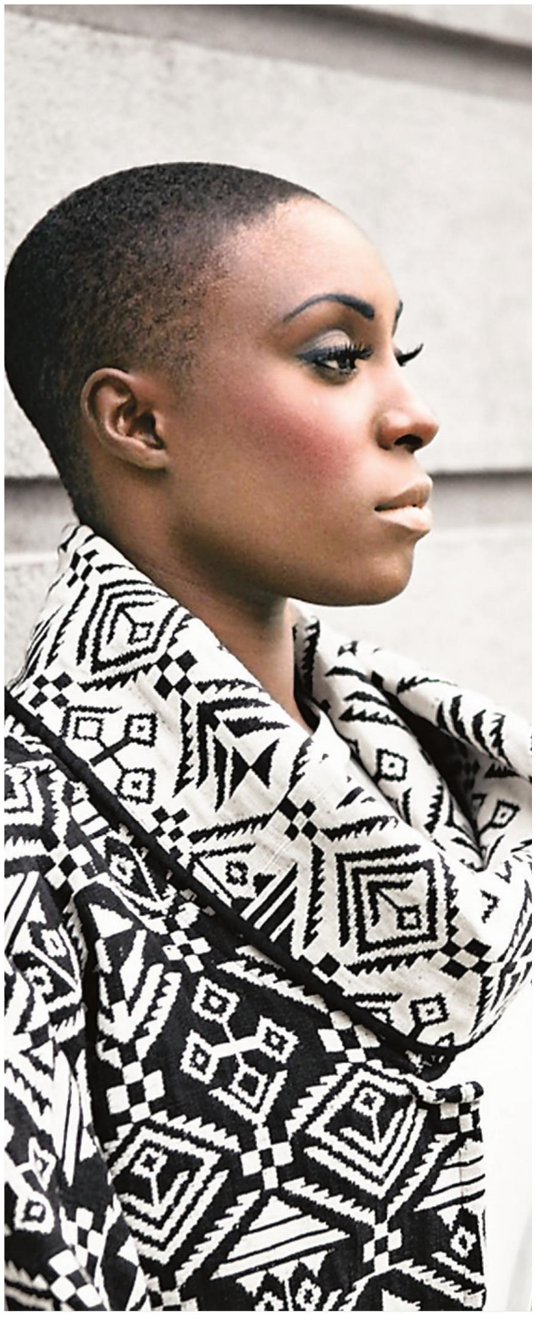


LAURA MVULA

British singer Laura Mvula sounds like Nina Simone and is being called the next Adele. She talks to us about her personal style.

'I'M AN EXPLORER'

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

Laura Mvula's anthemic single, That's Alright, is a declaration against all of the unrealistic beauty standards promoted in magazines that make women second-guess themselves: "I will never be what you want and that's alright. Cause my skin ain't light and my body ain't tight. And that's alright."

So it's not surprising that the Brit who is often described as this generation's answer to Nina Simone would be equally secure in her sense of personal style.

As she prepares to go on tour in support of her new album, Sing to the Moon, she opens up about her natural hair, crush on Vivienne Westwood and weakness for big heels.

Styling around her natural hair

"My hair is very short, so it's important for me to feel soft and feminine. I like to think I'm a warm person. I like to soften my image as much as possible so that my short hair isn't overly strong or intimidating."

Her stage persona versus her off-duty one

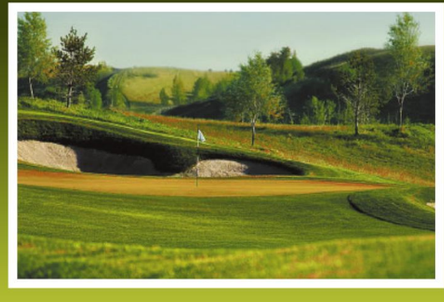
"I think the two go alongside each other. Even things like being practical, which isn't my strongest point as a person. Sometimes I'm standing at a keyboard, and I want to wear my big heels. I love my big heels. But even though I might have a specific image and vision in my head, it also has to be comfortable for me to wear. I think what I wear will change as I work with bigger ensembles. At the moment simplicity is really important to me. I want to come off the stage feeling comfortable, like I've been able to move and not think about this wrap falling off my head or the length of my skirt."

On figuring out her look

"I'm an explorer. My dad used to say that I was always the kid in the wardrobe trying on ridiculous pieces together and thinking somehow that they would work. I think a lot about my style and my image, which is really important to me. Even though I do feel like a baby when it comes to fashion. I still feel very much at the beginning of it all."

Her ultimate fashion fantasy

"I dream about Vivienne Westwood. When I was getting married, I spent a lot of time dreaming about her dresses. But to have this kind of (professional) opportunity makes (her clothes) more attainable. I've worn some of her pieces before. They're so elegant, pretty and feminine."



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CARDEL HOMES

Full checkered jacket

'Tis the season for sporting some peppy tailoring. Metro rounds up the best of the selection in stores for spring.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

Let's start with the obvious: the checked sports jacket is not subtle. It was once the preserve of country club types, weekending '80s bankers and men too old to care about modesty. However, these days most urbanites are willing to subscribe to more outré outfits and this natty number is certainly one way to go about it. The cut, as with most modern tailoring, is slimmer and less boxy, making it the perfect partner for chinos or shorts for the summer months.

Check, mate!
KARL-EDWIN GUERRE

Paul Smith

sky blue check patch pocket jacket, $820, paulsmith.co.uk

Zara

Double breasted linen blazer, $189, zara.com

Topman

Blue and green tartan blazer, $220, topman.com

Maison Kitsuné

Checked cotton jacket, $914, brownsfashion.com

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This designer eye stays Canadian

Shop the tried-and-true retailers that were born here

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

With the recent hoopla about new fashion and decor retailers invading Canada, I thought I'd pay homage to the home decor retailers who have been born and bred in this country.

I've always believed we have consistently been home to the best, and with a good style-eye, anyone can find attractive, on-trend home decor items for less than what others might expect.

The trick to an interesting decor is to mix various price points and styles that compliment each other. If you are looking for some well-priced accessories, here's a list of my favourite items from nationally available — and Canadian-born — retail and online stores.

EQ3

Matt Rocker, $599, eq3.com

Born 12 years ago, the Winnipeg-based furniture manufacturer now has 11 stores in Canada and a comprehensive website that allows online shoppers to purchase affordable modern furnishings from coast to coast. Made in Canada upholstered furnishings are great quality and excellent value.

Urban Barn

Biblioteca Bookcase, $699, urbanbarn.com

Founded by two high school friends 23 years ago, BC's born-and-bred home furnishings retailer boasts 41 locations and a comprehensive website. Trend-conscious shoppers can find amazingly priced furnishings and home accessories that change seasonally. Look for semi-custom furniture and carpets, trendsetting decorative objects and art. My favourite piece at the moment is a modern deco inspired bookcase that would act perfectly as a room divider as well.

Simons

New York Duvet Cover Set, from $130, simons.ca

The esteemed family-owned retailer from Quebec has been in the fashion and housewares business for more than 170 years — it recently opened a new store in Edmonton. Canadians can even shop for their home decor online. Its bedding and tabletop linens always please me and Simons' imported lines are hard to find elsewhere. I am always impressed with the bedding: great quality, well priced and some very interesting designs.

Homesense

Designer-style pillows, from $14, homesense.ca

The domestic spin-off of discount fashion retailer Winners, Homesense boasts prices 20 to 60 per cent less than other retailers. With around 90 stores coast-to-coast, savvy home decor shoppers are sure to enjoy quality brands at discount prices. Homesense is my go-to for decorative pillows in designer styles, fabrics and fills (many have posh down/feather fills) that would cost five times the price elsewhere.

eCarpetGallery

Over-dyed semi-antique patchwork rugs, from $200, ecarpetgallery.com

Based in Montreal, this importer of new, vintage and antique rugs is known for its free shipping, fast delivery and exceptional pricing. Without a showroom and commissioned sales staff, this online business can offer the best prices in Canada. The rugs are imported, handmade and, in many cases, vintage, which makes them classics to collect and keep forever. Right now I am crazy for the over-dyed Persians and patchwork rugs that are a fraction of the cost of the high-end rug retailers.

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Curb appeal puts your home in big demand

Home. First impression is critical when setting the mood for prospective buyers

In a market where sellers are in competition to make the most out of their largest investment, improving your home's first impression is one of the best ways to set it apart from the rest of the pack.

When prospective buyers or renters drive through your neighbourhood, what do they see? This is a really important question that you need to answer because it will help understand what your buyer is going to be looking for in a new home.

Once you've answered this, ask yourself objectively if the front of your home is in keeping with the rest of the houses on your block. The first impression is critical in setting the mood for prospective agents and buyers.

If your home's exterior looks like it needs work, then people immediately assume that it's a fixer-upper. The opposite is true if your front yard is manicured, the roof is in good shape and the driveway is in good condition. Having a potential buyer walk into your front door in a positive mood can translate into big dollars for you.

Both Virginia Tech and the University of Guelph did studies in 2011 that measured the effect of landscaping on property values, and they both came to the same conclusion. To improve curb appeal, basic landscaping increased the home's value by five per cent, but more extensive landscaping, including decks and patios, increased the homes value up to 15 per cent.

So where do you spend the money?

Set your budget and be realistic about what you're trying to accomplish with it. Keep in mind that you are trying to create an excellent first impression to attract potential buyers. This isn't the opportunity for you to realize your landscaping dreams. Consider a new paint job using a colour scheme that highlights the character of your home. Install a new front door or at least update your door's hardware. Even something as simple as full and healthy planters can make a favourable impact.

One of the easiest ways to improve curb appeal is to have a clean and tidy front yard with a manicured lawn. Maybe this is the opportunity to invest in some new tools to help do the job properly. The best part about this type of investment is that not only will your plants and lawn look better with edging, pruning and cutting, you also get to take your new tools with you once you've sold your home.

The technology for landscaping tools has made the purchasing task much easier as well. Now you can get a hedge trimmer, string trimmer or sweeper & vac all in one system. With the Black & Decker 36V Lithium system, for example, you can use the same battery and charger for all three of those tools. A quick prune of the shrubs with the hedge trimmer, followed by a "one-around" with the string trimmer and then tidying up with the sweeper will help you to maintain the front yard in as little as 10 minutes per day.

The goal is to create an emotional connection at the first glance of any prospective buyer, so before you put that sign on the lawn, be sure to spend enough time at the curb.

NEWSCANADA

A clean and tidy yard is the best way to improve curb appeal. NEWSCANADA

When prospective buyers or renters drive through your neighbourhood, what do they see? NEWSCANADA

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Got a disaster deck? These experts can help

DIY gone awry.
New TV show aims to show homeowners how to rebuild and beautify their "outdoor eyesores"

Dreams of an outdoor oasis can quickly dissolve for homeowners who tackle backyard builds without the skills and knowledge to do the job properly.

Home renovation show Disaster Decks profiles cases of DIY gone awry. But homeowners don't just get to show up for the big reveal — they're put to work.

Designer and carpenter Paul Lafrance takes on hosting duties on the new series, bringing along familiar faces from his HGTV Canada series Decked Out, including landscaper Jeff Sarty and stylist Heidi Richter.

"It's still fun," Richter said in an interview. "We've still got the whole gang with their jokes and all of the rest of it, but it's a little more of a tutorial.

"The homeowner is involved and what they are doing is teaching them how to rebuild the deck. It's generally people that built their own deck or they've inherited an old crappy deck from an old purchase. So we go in and help them."

Disaster Decks airs on Tuesdays at 10 p.m. ET on HGTV Canada. The first of two back-to-back episodes features Leo and Anne, whose lovely home is attached to an outdoor eyesore.

Anne yearns for a lounge area to host guests, but the dilapidated deck constructed by do-it-yourselfer Leo 25 years ago is hardly fit for entertaining with its rotting wood and exposed nails.

Lafrance and his team enlist Leo as they reconstruct the deck, while Richter steps in toward the end of the reno to bring in furniture and other decorative touches. She said a common thread among the decks gone wrong was really noticeable in the finishing.

"They would get things ... to a functional stage, but they were all looking a little rough around the edges. So they just need a little bit more help with that finishing just to tweak them and make it a more professional deck."

Rather than going over-the-top extravagant with the outdoor projects, Richter said the aim of Disaster Decks is to focus on more attainable ideas for the average homeowner.

"What we were trying to do is to find decks that already had good strong footings or support so there wasn't a whole lot of structural work to be done," she said. "We could use the framework and basically do re-decking, adding new details–railings, privacy screens and that sort of thing."

For viewers inspired to have a new or revamped deck of their own to enjoy during warmer weather, don't reach for the tools — or your wallet — just yet. Richter said it's important for homeowners to determine how they're going to use their outdoor space and to have help to determine how their build will take shape.

"Do they want the beautiful built-in kitchen? Do they want just a small deck area? Do they want to do a deck or do they want to do a stone patio?" she asked. "If they have children, then they want to ensure that they have some space for them to run as well. So the first step is just deciding how you want to use your backyard." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Have a vision

"The first step (to building a deck) is just deciding how you want to use your backyard."
Heidi Richter, stylist for Disaster Decks

Disaster Decks stylist Heidi Richter puts the finishing touches on a renovated deck. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Get decked out

When it comes to incorporating decorative details, Richter suggests going for personal and functional additions.

- "There's now lots of wonderful wall hangings that you can put in," she says. "There's Plexiglas that has bamboo embedded in it which allows the light to travel through, but also adds texture."
- Richter also suggests stitching together different pieces. "Mix and match the fabrics and furniture a little bit. It makes it a little more personal."

From bland backyard to outdoor oasis

Summer setting.
Decor specialists share a few tips on making the most of your space this season

As winter-weary Canadians welcome the return of warmer weather, many won't have far to travel for the opportunity to revel in the outdoors.

Whether spending time solo or hosting a backyard bash, those with a deck, porch or patio at their disposal are keen to pass the time idling or entertaining in their outdoor space.

Decor specialists highlight a few ways homeowners can update their exteriors.

Colour change.
Some tend to gravitate toward the dark side when selecting hues for lounge chairs, chaises and sectional sofas. While brown and black-coloured weaves remain popular, look for an emergence of pieces featuring frames in paler shades.

"Some of the lighter weaves now — the whites, the light greys — it really sort of gives an airier, lighter feel," said Andrew Bockner, principal of Andrew Richard Designs in Toronto.

Fans of a more rustic look may eschew wicker or metal furnishings in favour of wood. Bockner has embraced use of reclaimed teak due to the hardwood's ability to withstand the elements.

"It can stand the test of time. It stays outside for years and basically it just turns a little grey, which is a beautiful colour for it, anyway."

Updating cushions in weather-resistant materials is another cost-effective method to dress up the backyard, said Heidi Richter, stylist on HGTV's Decked Out and Disaster Decks.

Made in the shade.
While some may choose to go light and bright with outdoor furniture, Bockner suggested selecting darker hues for overhead canopies to help mask the dirt and residue from the outdoors.

Larger cantilevered umbrellas also offer the benefit of protection without poles "interrupting your space," Bockner noted.

Injecting some added green with plants and foliage can lend some visual warmth as well as some added privacy.

"If you're in a smaller backyard and not worried about the trees so much, vertical planting is something that's really nice," said Richter.

Shine on.
There are many ways to keep your outdoor oasis illuminated well past sunset, and there's no need to settle on a sole source to brighten up your surroundings.

Richter said "layering the light" can help add depth and dimension to the space. If you bring in low-voltage LEDs on the stairs to the deck, consider also incorporating candlelight and lanterns, and perhaps some sconces flanking the door.

"It just adds a great ambience," she said. "If you're entertaining and it's fun and it's a lively party, you can even string up paper lanterns to add a little warmth and fun. "

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stripes keep it simple in the Grace lounge set. All sets from Andrew Richards Designs. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/ANDREW RICHARDS DESIGNS

Get luxurious with Tranquility Beds. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/ANDREW RICHARDS DESIGNS

The Alpine dining set brings palatial simplicity to the backyard. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/ANDREW RICHARDS DESIGNS

Keep it understated with the Vintage dining set. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/ANDREW RICHARDS DESIGNS

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FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, April 11, 2013

The desire to live in a place where there aren't as many maintenance chores is one of the key motivations for choosing a condo. JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Low-maintenance living

Condominiums. Having fewer responsibilities makes housing arrangements easier for people

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Working as a real estate agent for the last 15 years, Joyce Richards has noticed that while there are different groups of people buying condos, there is a common thread between them. Whether it's the retiree looking to downsize or the young person who travels a lot, the desire to live in a place where there aren't as many maintenance chores is one of the key motivations for choosing a condo.

Having fewer responsibilities makes housing arrangements easier for people who travel or work out of town frequently.

"You just lock the door and go," says the Halifax-based real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Supercity Realty.

Another advantage of living in a condo is it allows people to live more centrally, thus allowing them to walk to work, be close to public transportation and the amenities of a downtown.

"People like to buy condos for the location," says Nic Blachette, a real estate agent with Sutton West Coast Realty in Vancouver.

There are, of course, downsides to condo living.

"I think some of the cons are people don't understand they are moving into a community," Richards says.

She says issues can pop up where people aren't respectful of their neighbours. Unlike living in one's own house, they have to be especially careful about the noise they create since condos will have different types of noise restrictions.

"You do have neighbours and they're a lot closer than when you had a house," Richards says.

Conflict between the owners at a condo building can also come about because of things like repairs to the units. While something like window replacements may not seem like a conflict generator on the surface, the fact owners may disagree on how much to spend on the replacements can create conflict, Blachette cautions.

Also, condos may not be an ideal fit for families as the amenities of a condo tend to be more geared towards adults, Richards says.

Before purchasing a condo, people need to make sure the building meshes well with their lifestyle.

"It's a good concept," Richards says. "It just has to meet your lifestyle."

Make a list of your basic needs to see if you can afford buying a home. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Tips. Know what you can afford

More than ever before, first-time homebuyers are considering housing affordability.

"We want consumers to be comfortable with the financial responsibilities of owning a home, so it's important to determine what you can afford in order to maintain a reasonable lifestyle once you've made the leap," says Phil Soper, president of Royal LePage Canada.

To assess if you are ready for home ownership, Soper offers this guideline:

1 Determine your net worth. Take your assets (earnings, investments, savings, vehicles and other items you own) and subtract your liabilities (car loans, lines of credit, overdrafts and credit cards). A positive number is a good sign that you may be ready to purchase your first home.

2 Hire a real estate agent. Top agents have extensive experience and demonstrate dedication and commitment to helping their clients. Ask your family and friends for a referral, or explore real estate websites to read profiles on agents, including their areas of expertise and languages spoken. A real estate agent will have knowledge of accurate, real-time market data to leverage your negotiating position, as well as access to properties often even before they are listed.

3 Make a list of your basic needs. Is it important to you to be close to transit and amenities? Do you intend to grow your family or do you have a need for extra space? Determine the factors essential to you in a home and which ones you may be able to live without. This will help you narrow your search and choose a home that is within your financial means.

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Know the rules before you move in

Bylaws. Condos have a structure in place so that living conditions appeal to everyone

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Even though a person may own a condominium unit, it doesn't necessarily mean they can do whatever they want, including owning pets. HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

Every condo building has its own set of rules, regulations and bylaws.

"The restrictions are essentially a fourth level of government, a way of creating sanity within an environment," says Bill Thompson, the vice-president of the Canadian Condominium Institute's national executive board.

He says because condos are "a lifestyle-driven environment," the rules, regulations and bylaws in place are meant to reflect that.

For example, a condo for seniors will probably have a lot of noise restrictions, while a condo with a rooftop "party bar" probably won't have many, Thompson says.

Besides noise, things like whether pets are permitted are spelled out. If they are, the kinds and numbers allowed will be specified.

While a person may own their unit, it doesn't necessarily mean they can do whatever they want to it. For example, if they want to renovate the kitchen, there is likely a process by which a person will need to get approval before the work begins.

"The condo owners, they have to appreciate that there's a structure in place and that structure is supposed to be for the betterment of the condominium corporation," says Linda Pinizzotto, the founder and president CEO of Condo Owners Association, a non-profit organization representing condo owners in Ontario.

She says it's important that if people disagree with the rules, regulations and bylaws in place, they have a means of questioning them fairly and respectfully. Enforcement of the rules, bylaws and regulations is handled by a building's condo corporation.

Using Ontario as an example, if the condo corporation is unable to enforce the rules, the matter would be handled by mediation (and then binding arbitration if mediation didn't work). If both of those things fail, the condo corporation could end up getting a court-enforced order.

However, Thompson says there are instances where mediation and arbitration will be bypassed directly for a court-enforced order. One example is if a building has a weight limit for dogs and the dog exceeds that limit.

"There is no dispute over the rule," Thompson says. "The owner is just simply breaching the rule."

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Be an informed consumer

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has consistently been a leader in the fight against mortgage fraud and offers the following tips to protect yourself against becoming a victim of mortgage fraud.

Be an informed consumer. Be wary of anyone who approaches you with an offer to make "easy money" in real estate. Remember, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Protect yourself and your family from becoming victims of or accomplices to mortgage fraud. This means:

- Never deliberately misrepresent information when applying for a mortgage.
- Never accept money, guarantee a loan or add your name to a mortgage unless you fully intend to purchase the property. If you allow your personal information to be used for a mortgage you could be held responsible for the entire debt if the mortgage defaults.
- Use licensed or accredited mortgage and real estate professionals.
- Always know who you are doing business with and never sign anything without understanding exactly what you are signing.

Protect yourself against becoming a victim of mortgage fraud. FUSE/THINKSTOCK

- Get independent legal advice from your own lawyer/notary and talk to them about title insurance and other methods of protection.
- Contact the local provincial land titles office to obtain the sales history of any property you are thinking about buying and consider having it inspected and appraised. An accredited appraiser will provide the property sales and MLS history.
- Find out from your lawyer if anyone other than the seller has a financial interest in the home or if there are any outstanding liens or tax arrears. CMHC

A small bistro table and two chairs tucked into corner create a relaxing nook on your condo balcony. NEWS CANADA PHOTO

Create a cosy outdoor haven

Most condo and apartment balconies are barren spaces surrounded by dull, grey concrete, steel and glass. They aren't very inviting. And that's probably why most of us don't use them very often.

But why not use every inch of your little piece of urban real estate to its fullest? If your building's rules allow you to, the experts at Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse offer a range of suggestions to maximize your living space by creating a cosy outdoor haven.

A concrete floor isn't very welcoming. Adding a small outdoor area rug will make it comfortable for your bare feet.

Look for small-scale furniture that is both comfortable and functional. A cushioned corner chair or lounge at one end of a balcony gives you a place to read a book or take a breezy nap.

A small bistro table and two chairs tucked into another corner create a relaxing nook for your morning tea or evening glass of wine.

If you have the space and a suitable corner, two short storage benches or deck boxes and a square table form a dining booth for entertaining.

Whatever furnishings you choose, make sure your seating is comfortable. If your current chairs don't have padding, invest in a few washable outdoor cushions. Then add some outdoor pillows and throw blankets.

Don't be afraid to choose bright colours and fun designs. A balcony is for relaxing and entertaining, so it should be friendly and inviting.

If you will be using your patio at night, the right lantern or outdoor candle can create a warm, relaxing ambiance.

A tiny garden can also add some life to your balcony. Many potted flowers and plants — including tomatoes, peppers and herbs — thrive in small spaces.

"For a little variety, combo planters are great for creating balcony gardens, and they come in a range of colours and styles," says Sarah Skeates, a merchandising specialist with Lowe's. "If you don't have space for a garden, a hanging wall bag adds a splash of colour to any outside wall space."

NEWS CANADA

Balcony gardens

"For a little variety, combo planters are great for creating balcony gardens, and they come in a range of colours and styles. If you don't have space for a garden, a hanging wall bag adds a splash of colour to any outside wall space."

Sarah Skeates, merchandising specialist with Lowe's

App. Calculate financial situations

CMHC is pleased to introduce two new tools to help Canadian homebuyers make informed and responsible homebuying decisions.

CMHC's new debt service calculator allows homebuyers to evaluate their financial situation and understand how much they can comfortably afford to spend on a mortgage. The easy-to-use calculator allows users to quickly estimate their gross debt-service ratio (GDS) and total debt-service ratio (TDS), both important measures in assessing their financially readiness for home ownership. The debt service calculator can be accessed on cmhc.ca (search calculator).

CMHC's new "Ready, Set, Home" mobile app provides consumers, especially first-time homebuyers, with comprehensive CMHC information and tools at their fingertips. The app helps homebuyers keep track of the details throughout the homebuying process and provides access to a variety of helpful calculators, articles and other resources.

Recognizing the increasingly fast-paced, electronic and mobile environment, the Ready, Set, Home mobile app is a free application that offers quick and convenient access to CMHC's extensive housing information. The app can be downloaded to your Blackberry, Android or iPhone device at cmhc.ca/mobile.

These new tools are the latest additions to CMHC's comprehensive suite of resources that are available to support Canadian homebuyers. CMHC

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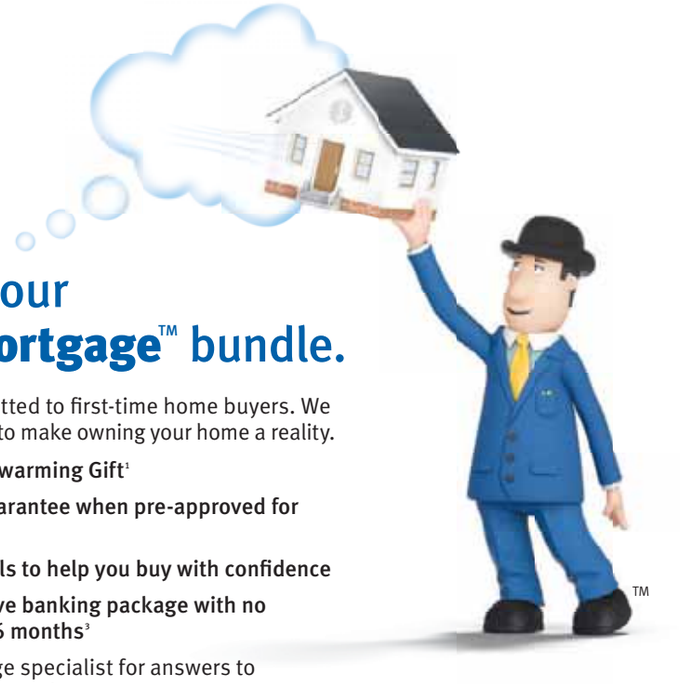

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Tenant insurance. Give yourself peace of mind

So, you have found your ideal apartment — a two-bedroom basement paradise or a mid-town penthouse or a fantastic south-facing one-bedroom condo. Now it's time to move in right away, right? Sure, start packing, but make sure you also budget for tenant insurance

Perhaps you think you don't need it because you are only renting and you don't own any fancy stuff. But what if something happened — would you have enough set aside to replace all your belongings and to find temporary housing? If you said no, Pina Ferraro-Novello, a corporate underwriter with Desjardins General Insurance Group, would like you to reconsider.

"Tenant insurance is necessary because it protects your property and also covers you in the event that you accidentally cause damage to the property of others," Ferraro-Novello says. "For example, if your bathtub overflowed and flooded the apartment below, destroying your neighbour's property, tenant insurance would protect you. Luckily, it's a simple and affordable coverage. Also, if you're a student, your parents' policy might automatically extend coverage to you at school."

What's typically covered by tenant insurance?

This type of insurance protects you from damage, like fire, theft, certain water damage and vandalism. If your apartment is seriously damaged as a result of an insured loss, tenant insurance would also typically cover your additional living expenses while it's being repaired. Tenant insurance also provides liability coverage if someone gets hurt because of your negligence, like slipping and falling on a wet floor in your apartment, for example.

How much coverage do you need?

The total cost of tenant's insurance will depend largely on the value of your contents. Most renters tend to underestimate what it would cost to replace their belongings. It's smart to take an inventory, including photos, which only takes a few minutes and will make things a lot easier if you experience a loss.

Start by walking from room to room and itemize all the contents.

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Before purchasing, research the pros and cons to buying a new condo versus a resale one. PHOTOS.COM/THINKSTOCK

New or used: Which is best suited for you?

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Newer isn't always better. That's the bottom line when it comes to purchasing a condo since there are many pros and cons to buying a new condo versus a resale one.

Perhaps the biggest advantage to buying a new condo is it will likely be more modern in style.

"You're getting a new product with today's features and finishes," says Josh Nelson, a real estate agent with Royal LePage Foothills in Calgary.

This will also likely include a warranty.

As well, buyers will be able to make the unit more their own by selecting finishes and upgrades.

The condo fees may be lower in a new building, but that isn't necessarily a good thing.

"That's also a big negative in my opinion, in that most of the developers … set these condo fees too low," Nelson says.

Nelson says it takes somewhere between three and five years for a new condo to get a good idea of how it should be spending its money. He says if the condo fees haven't gone up after five years, they will likely go up substantially very soon.

Another downside to a new condo can be that people are often purchasing it when it is nothing more than plans on a piece of paper.

"A plan is a plan and a finished product could be completely different," says Clair Whittington, a broker with MaxWell Altima Realty in Regina.

This is in contrast to a resale condo.

"You know what the finished product is," Whittington says.

Having a finished product with a track record can also provide people with some reassurance.

"You may find a little bit more security in a resale building in that you have been seeing what it has been doing in its past and you can get an idea of where it will be in the future," Nelson says.

RICHARD WOODBURY

Compact condos can appear roomy with space-saving furniture and clever storage solutions. PHOTOS.COM/THINKSTOCK

Wait until you move to see what possessions work in a new space and which ones don't. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Decorating for smaller spaces

TRACY HANES
For Metro

One of the challenges of moving to a condo is adapting to living in a relatively small space. But even compact condos can appear roomy with space-saving furniture, clever storage solutions and decorating tricks.

Interior decorator Mary Bannet of Just the Thing Interiors (justthethinginteriors.com) says the first order of business is to edit belongings. Some clients may want to wait until they move to see what possessions work in the new space and which ones have to go, she says.

She says buyers shouldn't feel compelled to follow a condo floor plan.

"Just because the plan says a space is a dining room doesn't mean you have to use it as a dining room."

Multi-functional furniture is ideal for condos, she says.

"Multi-functional pieces make good use of space and you might want to look a console table that may also be used as a desk, laptop trays that fit over a sofa arm or coffee tables that can be converted into dining tables," she suggests.

Bannet says Resource Furniture (resourcefurniture.com) is a good source for ideas and specializes in space-saving pieces.

A bed that folds into a wall is an excellent way to accommodate overnight guests without taking up valuable space on a daily basis, Bannet says.

Built-ins that provide storage are must-haves. "You need to think about making use of vertical space and use of the height of the walls rather than floor space. You could put built-in storage around a wall-mounted TV and store bedding above it and board games below it."

In kitchens, bulkheads may have nothing but empty space behind them and may be converted to storage. Or a kitchen wall may be turned into an island or peninsula with a breakfast bar.

To make spaces feel larger, keep to a monochromatic colour scheme, says Bannet. Many people believe that they have to stick to light paint colours to make a space appear larger, but that's not the case.

"You want to minimize contrast," she says. "Contrast makes a space look full. If you like dark colours and drama, there's nothing wrong with having those in a small space. If you keep everything in the room in dark tones, it will feel larger. If you have light coloured pieces, keep to light coloured walls."

Bannet says mirrors are great space enhancers as accent pieces or mounted on entire walls. Glass, mirrored and lacquered furniture pieces also boost the feeling of space.

"If your walls are in good enough shape, you might want to use high gloss paint as it gives a rich, luxurious and airy feel," Bannet says.

People often put a small, light-coloured rug under a coffee table or other piece of furniture, which makes the room look smaller. Bannet says it's better to have a larger rug that goes almost to the wall and anchors the seating area, making it seem larger and defining it as a separate room.

Window treatments "shouldn't jump out at you" and roller shades or shades that go into casings are great to capitalize on views.

Sheers are also a good solution and should blend with the wall colour.

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Condos can consist of many different styles of buildings and layouts so choose the one that suits your lifestyle. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

There's a style for everyone

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

While condos often bring to mind thoughts of units in a highrise building, the reality is they can consist of many different styles of buildings, such as townhouses and single-detached houses.

Regardless of the type, it is important people find out what exactly they own before purchasing a condo.

"It's always more advisable to get legal counsel prior to doing anything because there are consequences — both financial and otherwise — to signing agreements," says Sylvan Schneider, the president of Schneider Attorney Inc. in Montreal.

This is especially true given that no two condos are exactly like.

In most cases, "you basically own everything that's in the unit and then you have a share in everything that's outside of the unit," says Rosellina Giardino, a real estate lawyer with Giardino Law in Edmonton.

The items that would fall outside of the unit (and thus qualify as a common element) would be things like the hallways, any amenity rooms and the building's mechanical systems. As well, it's important to look into whether extras such as parking spaces or storage are included as part of the deal.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) cautions that while these may be for the exclusive use of a unit owner, there may be conditions attached to using them.

"While these spaces are exclusive to your use, there may be restrictions on how and when you use them," says the CMHC's Condominium Buyers' Guide.

While ownership in most condos consists of owning the unit and having a share in the common elements, it isn't always that way.

In the case of freehold condominiums (also known as a bare/vacant land condominium), "the unit may be the entire house including the exterior walls, the roof and, in some cases, the land surrounding the structure," CMHC says.

The CMHC also says the maintenance of these outside elements may be the responsibility of the condo corporation or the unit owner.

To bring clarity to just what one owns and who is responsible for maintenance, it is crucial to get sound advice.

"It's really important to talk to a lawyer," says Giardino.

Find out exactly what you own before buying a condo. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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Moving day is near; stress levels are up. You're surrounded by boxes, you're running out of packing tape, and your list of tasks seems to be getting longer. Plus, you still have to make dinner. But as you slice, stir and season, you can't shake that nagging feeling that you've missed something: Have I confirmed the movers? Have I set up the new hydro account? Have I booked time off work? And then there's the mail. Have I notified everyone I need to about my change of address?

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Research consistently shows that moving is one of the most stressful of life events.

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Canadian maple syrup helps to create a crispy wok winner

GAV MARTELL
Yummymummyclub.ca

Rather than using sugar, this dish calls for some Canadian maple syrup for sweetness. The sweetness contrasted with the zip of the red wine vinegar makes this Crispy Maple Beef a morsel by morsel mouth-pleasing wok winner.

1. Mix the beef, baking soda, and 3 tablespoons of water in a medium bowl. Cover, and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight (the baking soda will tenderize the steak).

2. To make the sauce, mix the syrup, vinegar, soy sauce and cornstarch in a small bowl. Set aside.

3. Heat a wok over high heat. Add enough vegetable oil to come about 1 1/2 inches up the sides of the wok, and heat to 375 degrees F. Meanwhile, add the cornstarch and egg white to the beef, and mix well to coat.

This recipe serves four to six. GAV MARTELL OF YUMMYMUMMYCLUB.CA

4. Cook the beef one small batch at a time (about 1/2 cup) so that it does not bring the temperature of the oil too low. Stir gently until it begins to look crispy, about 1 minute. Using a wire mesh strainer, transfer the beef to a colander to drain. Remove any fried bits from the wok.

5. Return the beef to the wok, and fry again until crispy all over, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a strainer to drain. Discard all but 1 tablespoon of oil from the wok.

6. Return the wok to high heat. Add the beef, sauce mixture and sesame oil. Stir-fry until all of the ingredients are well blended, about 30 seconds. Serve immediately over steamed rice.

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Ingredients

- 1 lb stir-fry beef
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 3 tbsp water
- Vegetable oil
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 large egg white, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 3 cups prepared white rice

Sauce

- 4 tbsp maple syrup
- 4 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp cornstarch

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Kind of Carpaccio

1. In bowl, whisk mirin, 1 tsp salt and 1 tsp pepper. Add steaks, turning to coat; refrigerate at least 20 minutes.

2. When ready to cook, in skillet over medium-high, heat oil until very hot but not smoking. Add steaks and sear on each side 1 1/2 mins. Transfer to a platter and let rest 5 mins.

3. Thinly slice across grain. Fan slices onto 2 serving plates; season with salt and pepper. Squeeze 2 lemon wedges over each. Serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

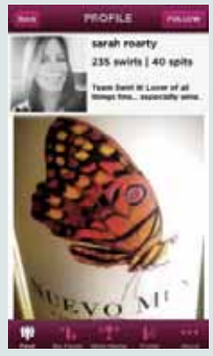
- 1/4 cup mirin
- Kosher salt and pepper
- Two 6-oz bison steaks
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges

For your phone

Swirl It! (iPhone; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

A wine diary to remember the wines you've had at the restaurants you visit. "Swirl" the good ones and "Spit" the bad, then watch the app figure out your palette.



CFL

Reynolds taken into custody again

A former all-star running back with the Calgary Stampeders who was convicted of assaulting his girlfriend has been arrested again.

Calgary police say Joffrey Reynolds, who is 33, was taken into custody Tuesday for allegedly breaching the conditions of a no-contact order.

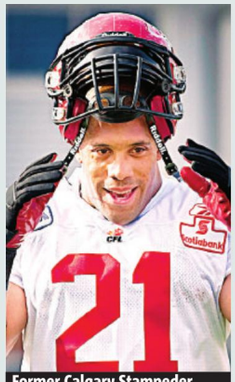
Reynolds had been on bail awaiting sentencing following his conviction in February.

He was allowed to remain free on bail despite the Crown's argument that he should be taken into custody immediately, but the judge said Reynolds was not a flight risk.

Reynolds played eight years for the Stampeders and was the franchise's all-time leading rusher with 9,213 yards.

He was named a CFL all-star four times and won a Grey Cup championship with the Stampeders in 2008 before his release in 2012.

CHQR/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Former Calgary Stampeder Joffrey Reynolds.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Calgary Flames goaltender Miikka Kiprusoff turns aside a shot in front of Alex Burrows of the Vancouver Canucks at the Saddledome on Wednesday night. Burrows scored a goal and the Canucks won 4-1. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Luongo, Canucks snuff out Flames

NHL. Veteran goalie steps in for ill Schneider and makes 40 saves

On Wednesday

Canucks	Flames
4	1

Maxim Lapierre scored the go-ahead goal and Roberto Luongo, in a surprise start, made 40 saves as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Calgary Flames 4-1 on Wednesday night.

Andrew Ebbett centred a pass that Lapierre swatted behind Miikka Kiprusoff from the top of the crease, breaking a 1-1 tie at 12:37 of the third period.

Up until that goal, most of the play in the third had been in the Vancouver end where Luongo was sharp in turning aside dangerous chance after chance.

Calgary outshot the Canucks 41-29 in the game including 18-9 in the final 20 minutes.

Alex Burrows, Mason Raymond and Daniel Sedin also scored for Vancouver (23-11-6), winners of nine of its last 12. The Canucks, who began a five-game road trip, opened up a six-point lead atop the Northwest Division over the Minnesota Wild. They will also make stops in Colorado, Nashville, St. Louis and Dallas.

Curtis Glencross with his team-leading 15th had the lone goal for Calgary (14-21-4), which has lost six of its last seven. The Flames remain tied with the Florida Panthers for second-last overall. They both entered the night three points up on the Avalanche, who were playing the Anaheim Ducks.

Cory Schneider was supposed to get the start for Vancouver but fell ill, so the Canucks turned to Luongo who started for the first time in 12 games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No longer idle in Motor City

MLB. Blue Jays rally past Tigers in sixth and seventh to improve record to 3-5

Blue Jays designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion celebrates with teammate Mark DeRosa after scoring on a double to deep centre field by J.P. Arencibia in the seventh inning of Toronto's 8-6 win over the Tigers on Wednesday in Detroit. LEON HALIP/GETTY IMAGES

J.P. Arencibia and Mark DeRosa gave the struggling Toronto Blue Jays a chance to feel good.

Arencibia hit a three-run double in the seventh inning and the Blue Jays rallied from a five-run deficit to beat the Detroit Tigers 8-6 on Wednesday.

Toronto had opened a season of high expectations with five losses in seven games.

"No reason to panic, but when you see it slipping away in the fifth or sixth inning, it was nice for the bats to come alive," said DeRosa, whose pinch-hit double in the sixth got the comeback started in earnest. "We obviously didn't get off to the start we wanted to, but we fought."

Detroit led 6-1 in the sixth, but starter Rick Porcello allowed hits to the first three batters that inning. They all eventually scored, and Toronto added four more runs the following inning.

Bryan Villarreal (0-1) came on with one on and one out in the seventh and proceeded to walk three straight hitters, forcing in a run. Arencibia followed with a drive to the gap in left-centre off Octavio Dotel to make it 8-6.

"It was nice to finally get a few hits and walks and guys grinding out at-bats, and string it all in the same inning," Arencibia said. "To score, you need to be able to do that collectively in an inning."

Aaron Loup (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth for the Blue Jays. Casey Janssen, the last of five Toronto relievers, pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Jays starter Mark Buehrle allowed six runs — five earned — in 4 1/3 innings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

0-19

Blue Jays designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion snapped a 0-for-19 skid by doubling in the fourth and sixth innings.

CFL

Board of governors OK's expansion of video replay

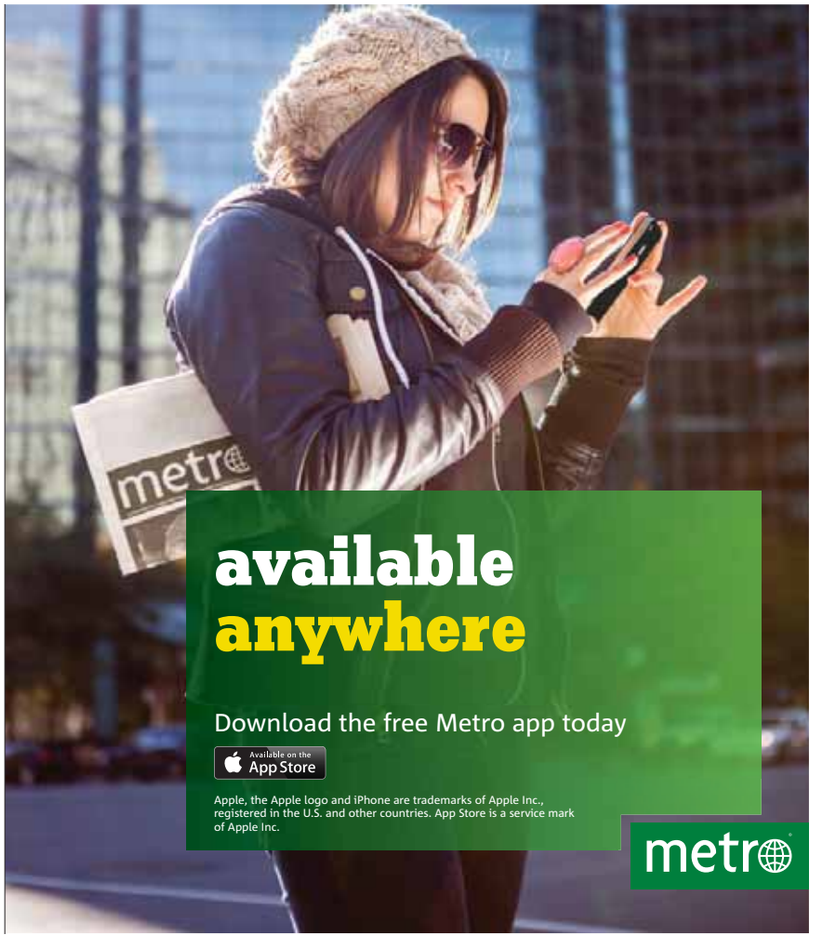
The CFL's board of governors has approved a rule change allowing coaches to request video review of a missed field goal or convert to possibly overturn an on-field ruling.

"Video review has become a dependable asset to ensure we get the right call on the field," Tom Higgins, the CFL's director of officiating, said in a statement. "And with the technology and number of cameras used in today's telecasts of our games, expanding video review to cover these potential scoring plays is a natural evolution."

Coaches will also now be able to use both of their timeouts any time during regulation time but only one after the three-minute warning in the second half.

Previously, coaches could use only one timeout per half.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Miami	62	16	.795	—
x-New York	51	26	.662	10½
x-Indiana	49	29	.628	13
x-Brooklyn	46	32	.590	16
x-Chicago	42	35	.545	19½
x-Atlanta	43	36	.544	19½
x-Boston	40	38	.513	22
x-Milwaukee	37	41	.474	25
Philadelphia	31	47	.397	31
Toronto	30	48	.385	32
Washington	29	50	.367	33½
Detroit	27	52	.342	35½
Cleveland	24	54	.308	38
Orlando	20	59	.253	42½
Charlotte	18	60	.231	44

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	20	.740	—
x-Oklahoma City	57	21	.731	½
x-Denver	53	24	.688	4
x-L.A. Clippers	51	26	.662	6
x-Memphis	53	25	.679	4½
x-Golden State	45	33	.577	12½
x-Houston	44	34	.564	13½
L.A. Lakers	41	37	.526	16½
Utah	41	38	.519	17
Dallas	38	40	.487	19½
Portland	33	44	.429	24
Minnesota	29	48	.377	28
Sacramento	27	50	.351	30
New Orleans	27	51	.346	30½
Phoenix	24	55	.304	34

x — clinched playoff berth z — clinched conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 124 Philadelphia 101

Orlando 113 Milwaukee 103 (OT)

Detroit 111 Cleveland 104

Miami 103 Washington 98

Brooklyn 101 Boston 93

Phoenix 102 Dallas 91

L.A. Lakers at Portland

New Orleans at Sacramento

San Antonio at Denver

Minnesota at L.A. Clippers

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern

New York at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pt
y-Pittsburgh	40	30	10	0	0	132	98	60
Boston	39	26	9	2	2	113	85	56
Washington	40	21	17	2	0	120	112	44
Montreal	39	25	9	3	2	122	94	55
Toronto	40	22	13	0	5	123	112	49
Ottawa	39	19	14	2	4	96	88	44
NY Islanders	40	20	16	3	1	117	120	44
NY Rangers	40	20	16	0	4	99	96	44
Winnipeg	41	20	19	0	2	102	121	42
New Jersey	40	15	15	3	7	96	111	40
Buffalo	40	16	18	2	4	106	122	38
Philadelphia	39	17	19	1	2	107	122	37
Tampa Bay	39	17	20	0	2	124	116	36
Carolina	39	16	21	1	1	102	126	34
Florida	39	13	20	5	1	96	132	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pt
x-Chicago	39	30	5	0	4	129	83	64
x-Anaheim	40	27	8	2	3	123	99	59
Vancouver	40	23	11	1	5	109	96	52
Los Angeles	40	22	14	1	3	115	101	48
San Jose	39	20	12	3	4	98	98	47
St. Louis	38	22	14	1	1	107	98	46
Minnesota	39	22	15	1	1	103	98	46
Detroit	39	19	15	3	2	99	101	43
Phoenix	40	18	16	2	4	108	107	42
Dallas	39	19	17	2	1	109	118	41
Columbus	40	17	16	3	4	95	104	41
Edmonton	40	16	17	4	3	102	111	39
Nashville	41	15	18	2	6	96	110	38
Calgary	39	14	21	1	3	103	138	32
Colorado	39	12	22	4	1	90	124	29

x — clinched playoff berth y — clinched division

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

NY Rangers 3 Toronto 2 (SO)

Boston 5 New Jersey 4

Phoenix 3 Edmonton 1

Vancouver 4 Calgary 1

Colorado at Anaheim

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All Times Eastern

Ottawa at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

NY Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m.

Montreal at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Carolina at Washington, 7 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

San Jose at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

St. Louis at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	5	3	.625	—
Baltimore	4	4	.500	1
New York	4	4	.500	1
Tampa Bay	4	5	.444	1½
Toronto	3	5	.375	2

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	6	3	.667	—
Chicago	4	4	.500	1½
Detroit	4	4	.500	1½
Minnesota	4	5	.444	2
Cleveland	3	5	.375	2½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	6	2	.750	—
Texas	6	3	.667	½
Seattle	4	5	.444	2½
Los Angeles	2	5	.286	3½
Houston	2	6	.250	4

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 8 Detroit 6

Tampa Bay 2 Texas 0

N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland (ppd.)

Baltimore 8 Boston 5

Kansas City 3 Minnesota 0

Oakland at L.A. Angels

Houston at Seattle

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All times Eastern

Toronto (Johnson 0-0) at Detroit (Fister 1-0), 1:05 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Hughes 0-1) at Cleveland (McAllister 0-1), 7:05 p.m.

Baltimore (Tillman 0-0) at Boston (Aceves 0-0), 7:10 p.m.

Oakland (Griffin 1-0) at L.A. Angels (Vargas 0-0), 10:05 p.m.

Texas (Grimm 0-0) at Seattle (Hernandez 1-1), 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

St. Louis 10 Cincinnati 0

Arizona 10 Pittsburgh 2

San Francisco 10 Colorado 0

Atlanta 8 Miami 0

Washington 5 Chicago White Sox 2

Philadelphia 7 N.Y. Mets 3

Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs (ppd.)

L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

THURSDAY'S GAMES — All times Eastern

San Francisco (Vogelsong 0-1) at Chicago Cubs (Feldman 0-1), 2:20 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Axelrod 0-0) at Washington (Haren 0-1), 7:05 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 1-0) at San Diego (Marquis 0-1), 10:10 p.m.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You need to clear your mind of trivial thoughts and focus only on what really matters, with your career very much to the fore. The rest of the world can waste time on non-essentials.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
According to the planets, someone is abusing your good nature and you must get tough to make sure they stop. Just because you're a nice guy does not mean you're not allowed to get nasty once in a while.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There is something you need to take care of that cannot be delegated to other people. You may not enjoy it that much but you know it must be done. Get it over with now and the good times will soon begin.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Yes, someone has betrayed your trust, but is it really such a big deal? Why not just forget about it and move on? If nothing else, others will realize you are not thin-skinned.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A little bit of effort will go a long way today but don't push too hard. Pace yourself according to your natural limits. Small victories will soon add up to major triumphs.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you give up one thing today, you will gain something much more valuable in the long-term. But do you have the willpower to make the change? If you don't make it now, it may never be made.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Try not to take what you hear today the wrong way. What you think is bad news may be nothing of the sort. You could just be creating an interpretation that doesn't exist.

Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Other people seem unable to grasp even the most simple of instructions today, which is so frustrating. There is no point losing your temper as that will only make matters worse.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Before you agree to new responsibilities, you should ask yourself how they might affect other areas of your life. Cash flow situation isn't everything. Time has value too.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No matter how tempting a social invitation may be, you must turn it down and do something less demanding. There are times when you like to be alone with your thoughts and this is one of them.

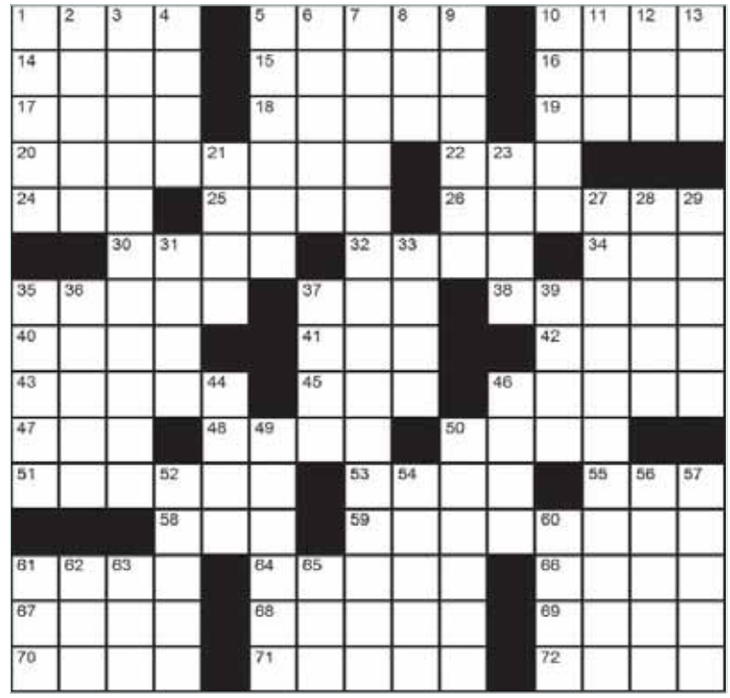
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something you hear while listening in on someone else's conversation will intrigue you and make you want to know more, but you've got to be smart about it. You don't want them to know you're a snoop.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Some people have no shame and you will find yourself having to deal with one such individual today. Don't waste time trying to befriend them. Morally you are on different planets. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

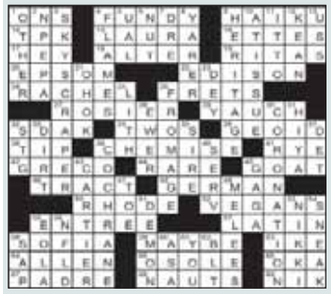
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Cod-like fish
5. Ancient insect trapping/preserving stuff
10. Halifax-born singer, Holly __
14. Belgian imaging corporation
15. Glass: French
16. Singer Mr. Redding
17. Pea: French
18. "Should _ __ the doorbell?"
19. __ and potatoes
20. Type of painting
22. 'Smarter Planet' sloganeer
24. Metres' li'l opposites
25. __-inflammatory
26. BC river
30. Not that
32. The Ramayana heroine
34. 'Gran' add-on (Hiker's treat)
35. Hairy, like a lion
37. Very smart letters
38. Witch assembly
40. Culture medium
41. Wood sorrel
42. Hollywood great Gregory
43. Quick movie appearance
45. Hi's opposites
46. Breath mints brand
47. 'Oct' add-on (Music†interval)
48. Think over
50. Month
51. Canadian bakery since 1882
53. Unwritten
55. Post-op locale
58. "Impressive!"
59.Canadian actress Kate
61. __-Levesque (Boulevard in Montreal)
64. Chilliwack song: "__-_"
66. Juniors = Jnrs/ Seniors = ?
67. Idea: French
68. Take _ __ breath
69. "Let __" by The Beatles: 2 wds.
70. Atmosphere
71. Actress, Parker __
72. Way [abbr.]

Down
1. Labrador community, __ Valley-Goose Bay
2. "Have _ __ time!" (Enjoy!)
3. What The Kardashians mostly have, "_-_ __ __
4. "__ of Eden" (1955)
5. Birds
6. Warrant
7. What were Upper Canada and Lower Canada?: 2 wds.
8. 'West' suffix
9. Get-then-give the present
10. This thing: ,
11. 'Capri' suffix
12. __ Fail (Irish coronation stone)
13. The bar on "Cheers", __. 1895
21. Bug killer brand
23. Bric-a-__
27. Parti Quebecois concern
28. Pick a politician
29. Colonel and Lieutenant
31. Not there
33. Varieties of apples
35. Parrot
36. Tequila plant source
37. Opinion __
39. Unlock
44. 1847 Herman Melville story
46. Select/reject
49. Open a package
50. Clunker car
52. Shannon __ (Canadian wife of rocker Gene Simmons)
54. Ms. Zellweger
56. Breads and pasta, e.g.
57. Not yet established
60. Egyptian Myth: Daughter of Geb
61. Coffee mug part
62. Tokyo, formerly
63. Prefix to 'lithic'
65. Ruckus

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2						8	
	9	4		7		6	3	
6			1		9			5
		5	2		4	3		
		9	6		7	5		
4			8		6			9
	3	1		5		8	6	
	5						7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	9	8	2	5	1	4	7
8	1	7	6	4	9	2	3	5
4	5	2	3	1	7	6	9	8
5	7	4	2	6	3	9	8	1
9	3	6	1	7	8	4	5	2
1	2	8	9	5	4	3	7	6
2	9	3	7	8	1	5	6	4
7	4	1	5	3	6	8	2	9
6	8	5	4	9	2	7	1	3

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 5° MIN: 0°	MAX: 3° MIN: -5°	MAX: 3° MIN: -5°

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CrossIron Mills

Deerfoot Mall

Marlborough Mall

Pacific Place

Sunridge Mall

1353 32nd Ave. NE

2520 23rd St. NE

Southwest

Banker's Hall

Bow Valley Square

Chinook Centre

The Core

Southcentre Mall

Westbrook Mall

Westhills Towne Centre

321 6th Ave. SW

1708 8th St. SW

2008 33rd Ave. SW

4623 Bow Trail SW

6039 Centre St. S

16061 MacLeod Trail S

Southeast

Deerfoot Meadows

Quarry Park

Shepard Centre

1061 Macleod Trail SE

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3012 17th Ave. SE

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